

THE
Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS:	Free-Church Architecture	296
Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions	The Conference of the Liberation Society	296
Passing of the Church-rate Bill	The Voluntary Principle Proclaimed by Churchmen	296
The Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill	Parliamentary Proceedings	296
The Press and the Irish Church Resolutions	The Last Church-rate Division in the Commons	298
The Irish Church Movement	Musical Postscript	299
Petitions on the Irish Church and University Tests	LEADING ARTICLES:	
Statistics of the Irish Church	Summary	300
Liberation Society	The Coming Conflict	300
The University Test-Bill	The Government Education Bill	301
Religious and Denominational News	The Abyssinian Campaign	301
CORRESPONDENCE:	"Use is Second Nature"	302
Cambridge University	Foreign and Colonial	302
Blackader's "English Bible"	The Abyssinian Expedition	303
	Literature	305

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS.

MR. GLADSTONE has promptly reduced his speech of last week, so far as it related to the Irish Church, to the first form of Parliamentary action. He is intent upon doing what he then said ought to be done. He knows how quickly the aroma of political sentiment usually evaporates unless it be fixed in something more substantial than a speech, however effective for the time being. Nobody is more fully aware than he of the supreme importance of seizing the favourable moment when the opinions of his followers are in a state of fusion, to get them transferred as soon as possible to a mould of definite policy. No leader can keep his party together except by something more tangible and more binding than an eloquent enunciation of just principles. But Mr. Gladstone is more than a party leader—he is a statesman. His words are pledges which his deeds should redeem. Ireland has been fed on promises till she surfeits of them. She is entitled to more solid food. She cannot, indeed, be put into immediate possession of her rights, but she may well ask for more than a mere verbal acknowledgment of them. Nothing but a formal guarantee that she shall enjoy them at the earliest practicable moment is likely to stay the spread of disaffection, or to inspire hope in the righteous intentions of the Imperial Parliament. Whilst the Act for the suspension of *Habeas Corpus* is yet in force, and the means of coercion are everywhere displayed, necessity is laid upon those who patriotically desire to raise and cheer her, to put into her hands a bond of some sort, engaging the parties to it to see the tenour of it carried into effect. This the right hon. gentleman invites the House of Commons to do at once. Till the new constituencies have spoken for the country, he could not do more—in consideration of what is due to Ireland he could not do less.

The resolutions which Mr. Gladstone has announced his intention to move, and which the Government have fixed next week for debating, are sufficient for their purpose. They are three in number. The first affirms, "That in the opinion of this House it is necessary that the Established Church of Ireland should cease to exist as an Establishment, due regard being had to all personal interests, and to all individual rights of property." It is objected to this resolution that it is an abstract one, and

therefore unsuited for adoption by a practical legislative body. Technically, the objection holds good—really and in spirit it is inapplicable. It is true it declares nothing but an opinion—but it declares it as a first step to action. It defines with as much precision as the occasion calls for, the scope of the ecclesiastical policy which the House will be asked to approve in reference to Ireland—namely, that there should cease to be a State Church in that portion of her Majesty's dominions. For obvious reasons, we think, the right hon. gentleman adheres to the customary meaning of the word "Establishment" when used with reference to the Churches of England and Scotland, including in it not merely the legal privileges and precedence of their clergy, but the property with which they are endowed. In a constitutional sense, possibly also in a legal sense, an ecclesiastical system which ceases to exist as an establishment, ceases also to have a right to its national endowments—at least in this realm. The two ideas may be separated for the convenience of discussion—but in this country they have practically always been combined. To have presented them in this resolution in their differential form would have encouraged a division of opinion where unity is specially desirable. But the true purport of the resolution is made sufficiently clear by the limitation affixed to it—the words "due regard being had to all personal interests, and to all individual rights of property," fixing the sense in which the preceding declaration is made. The resolution, in fact, affirms in the fewest possible words, respecting the course which ought to be taken with the Irish Church, precisely what the Liberationists have affirmed from the beginning.

The second resolution carries the first over the border which divides the speculative from the practical, and is meant to operate as a restraint upon those persons or bodies who, on behalf of the public, exercise patronage, or order and superintend arrangements, pecuniary and otherwise, in connection with the Established Church of Ireland. It runs thus:—"That, subject to the foregoing considerations, it is expedient to prevent the creation of new personal interests by the exercise of any public patronage, and to confine the operations of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of Ireland to objects of immediate necessity or involving individual rights, pending the final decision of Parliament." To illustrate the meaning of these words, let us take an imaginary instance or two. Should one of the archbishops die, the Crown is warned against appointing his successor during the interval between the passing of these resolutions, and the final settlement of the whole question, by an Act of Parliament. Or should a benefice become vacant, no fresh incumbent should be installed in it by the Crown, or bishop, or chapter, in whom the patronage may happen to be vested. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners should not begin building new churches, nor expend their resources on objects not immediately required. The concern is not expected to buy fresh stock—using a commercial phrase for ecclesiastical transactions—whilst under suspense. Private patrons, of course, cannot be so dealt with, inasmuch as they hold their rights as individual property. But in regard to that much larger proportion of patronage possessed by ecclesiastical corporations, or by the Crown, the resolution states

that it ought to remain in abeyance pending the Parliamentary disposal of the question at issue. This also is satisfactory, and offers a trustworthy pledge of earnest intentions.

The third resolution is merely a form of compliance with official and Parliamentary etiquette—"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, humbly to pray that, with a view to the purposes aforesaid, her Majesty would be graciously pleased to place at the disposal of Parliament her interest in the temporalities of the archbishoprics, bishoprics, and other ecclesiastical dignitaries and benefices in Ireland and in the custody thereof." Formal, however, as the resolution is, it indicates that care and forethought have been devoted to the initiation of the new line of policy, and it strikes us as giving promise of a scheme for carrying it into effect as well thought out in its minute details, as the principle which it embodies is worthy of the crisis.

These resolutions, we trust, will obtain the concurrent vote of every Liberal member of the House of Commons. Of one thing we are quite satisfied—that defection from the ranks of the Opposition leader on this occasion, whether by voluntary absence or by a hostile vote, will be regarded by every Nonconformist, as it ought to be regarded by every Liberal, elector in the new and enlarged constituencies, county or borough, as quite decisive of the claims of any candidate to the trust he may solicit at their hands. It may not in every instance deprive him of his seat; but if that seat be dependent upon the suffrages of Dissenters, he might as well spare himself the trouble and expense of contesting it. For once, and at last, the object of the Liberals, as a party, and the object of the Nonconformists, is the same; and he who shirks his duty next week will look in vain for condonation. There is a spirit of enthusiasm abroad among the Free Churches, any parallel to which is not within the range of our recollection. It will not allow itself to be trifled with or cajoled. The vote given at the close of the approaching debate will be, cannot but be, regarded as a test. "Aye" or "No" will determine in the judgment of all Nonconformists whether he who says it is a Liberal or a Conservative. Happily there is no room left for evasion. The alternative is as marked and intelligible as it can be. "Aye" will mean support; "No" will mean rejection. There is no middle course. There shall be none.

PASSING OF THE CHURCH-RATE BILL.

MR. GLADSTONE'S Bill for the abolition of compulsory Church-rates passed from the House of Commons after one o'clock on Wednesday morning, with a hearty cheer from the Liberal members, whose presence in force at that inconvenient hour testified to their desire to see the remedy for a long-standing grievance finally adopted, and prevented the success of the obstructive tactics of the opponents of the Bill. Mr. Henley, and again Mr. Newdegate, pleaded for more delay, but the House refused to admit the reasonableness of the claim, and, having voted down two motions for adjournment, read the Bill a third time.

Without any great *clat*, but with that prestige which comes of opposition vanquished or paralysed, the measure has left the Commons and gone up to the House of Lords. Earl Russell was expected to take charge of it in that assembly, but on Thursday night the Bill was read a first time on the motion of Earl

Granville, who, spite of the Earl of Malmesbury's unreasonable protest, fixed the second reading for Thursday next. What will their lordships do with this unpalatable measure? We understand that the bishops are deliberating whether they are under the necessity of accepting it. It may be concluded that such consultation implies a disposition to bow to the inevitable. There is good reason to think that Mr. Gladstone's Bill, being regarded as the only alternative to total abolition, will encounter in the Lords no more organised resistance than in the Commons. If not before the Easter vestries, at all events soon after, the Bill may be expected to become the law of the land.

We have given elsewhere, the Bill *in extenso*, as it now stands, with such explanation of the various clauses by the Secretary of the Liberation Society as will make their meaning clear. It has been somewhat expanded during the past week to meet some emergencies, but without violating its fundamental principle—the abolition of compulsory Church-rates. The Lords may be induced to amend the Bill with the view of making it more workable, but will, we hope, be wise enough to shrink from any attempt to trench upon its principle, or, as the *Times* phrases it, "to devise a new kind of voluntary compulsion." With the Irish Church question in the rear of Church-rates, their Lordships can hardly hesitate; and, as the leading journal remarks, they "will assume a grave responsibility if they deny to the present Parliament the satisfaction of settling a question which has perplexed it during the whole of its existence."

THE COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.
SIR,—Mr. Gladstone's bill having passed through all its stages in the House of Commons, I beg, for the information of your readers, to forward to you a copy of the measure in the shape which it has assumed after being amended in Committee.

I also add a few explanatory notes, stating, in untechnical language, the purport of some of the clauses.

Much might be said on the manner in which the subject has been dealt with in the present session; but the time for such comment has not yet arrived. I, however, need not withhold the expression of the opinion that the bill has been much improved, and has been in no way injured, by the manipulation it has undergone at the hands of members on both sides of the House.

Your obedient servant,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

Serjeants' Inn, March 25.

Whereas Church-rates have for some years ceased to be made or collected in many parishes by reason of the opposition thereto, and in many other parishes where Church-rates have been made the levying thereof has given rise to litigation and ill-feeling.

And whereas it is expedient that the power to compel payment of Church-rates by any legal process should be abolished.

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. From and after the passing of this Act no suit shall be instituted or proceeding taken in any ecclesiastical or other court, or before any justice or magistrate, to enforce or compel the payment of any Church-rate made in any parish or place in England or Wales.

[Clauses 3 and 4 exempt from the operation of this Clause rates already made, and rates to repay money already borrowed.]

2. So much and such part of any general or local Act as directs or authorises the raising, by means of a compulsory rate, of any monies for the building, rebuilding, enlargement, or repair of any church or chapel, or for any other purpose for which, by the general common or ecclesiastical law of this realm, Church-rates might heretofore lawfully be made, or for the repayment of any money to be hereafter borrowed for any such purpose, shall be and the same is hereby repealed; and all powers of making and levying rates, whether under the denomination of Church-rates or otherwise, or of providing for any particular payments out of Church-rates or out of any other compulsory rate given by any Act, shall henceforth remain in full force and effect with reference to all other purposes (save as aforesaid) for which the same may be thereby given, and shall be construed (when any words extending such powers to all or any of the purposes aforesaid are contained in such Act, or when such rates are therein denominated Church-rates), in the same manner as if the words so extending such powers were not therein contained, and as if such rates were not thereby denominated Church-rates, and payment of such rates may be enforced in the same manner as if this Act had not passed, and the same shall

not be deemed to be Church-rates within the meaning of this Act; and when, under any such Act, any common or mixed fund, derived partly from any compulsory rates to be hereafter levied and partly from other sources, shall be directed to be applied for purposes some of which cannot lawfully be provided for by or out of a compulsory rate under this Act, the part of such fund not derived from such rates shall alone be applied, and shall henceforth be primarily applicable to and for such last-mentioned purposes.

[This Clause will put an end to the borrowing of money, under the Church Building Acts, on the security of rates, for rebuilding and repairing of churches and for enlarging churchyards. It also extinguishes Church-rates levied under local Acts, while it leaves the Acts in existence so far as concerns the payment of ministerial stipends, or of other sums which cannot legally be charged to a Church-rate.]

3. Provided always, that in any parish where a sum of money is at the time of the passing of this Act due on the security of Church-rates, or of rates in the nature of Church-rates, to be made or levied in such parish under the provisions of any Act of Parliament, or where any money in the name of Church-rate is ordered to be raised under any such provisions, such rates may still be made and levied, and the payment thereof enforced by process of law, pursuant to such provisions, for the purpose of paying off the money so due, or paying the money so ordered to be raised, but not otherwise, until the same shall have been liquidated. Provided also, that the accounts of the churchwardens of such parish in reference to the receipt and expenditure of the monies levied under such Acts shall be audited annually by the auditor of the Poor-law Union within whose district such parish shall be situate.

4. Any Church-rate, or rate in the nature of Church-rate, made at any time before the passing of this Act, may be collected and recovered in the same way as if this Act had not been passed.

[Clause 3 will leave in existence rates for the repayment of money already borrowed, and the interest thereon; but it introduces a new method of auditing the accounts—viz., by the Poor-law auditor of the district. Clause 4 relates simply to rates which may be made before the Act passes.]

5. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, it shall be lawful, in any parish or ecclesiastical district, for the parishioners in vestry assembled (or the householders and occupiers of land within an ecclesiastical district not being a parish) to agree upon a voluntary rate to be assessed upon the occupiers of property within such parish or ecclesiastical district for any purpose for which Church-rates might heretofore lawfully have been made, and to agree upon the proportions and manner in which such rate shall be collected, as they may think fit for that purpose.

6. It shall be lawful for any person to pay or to agree to pay such voluntary rate, or any voluntary contribution, towards any purpose for which Church-rates have hitherto been paid; and nothing in this Act shall prevent any agreement to make any such payment, on the faith of which any expenditure shall have been made, or any liability incurred, from being enforced in the same manner as other contracts of a like nature might be enforced in any court of law or equity: provided, that in any suit or proceeding to enforce such agreement as last aforesaid it shall not be necessary to join as parties any other person or persons than the party to be made defendant, and the churchwardens, chapelwardens, or treasurer hereinafter mentioned.

[These Clauses authorise the making of voluntary rates. No provision is made for enforcing any agreement to pay a rate, or subscription; but if any expenditure has been made, or liability incurred, on the faith of any such agreement entered into by individuals, the Act will not prevent its enforcement in the same way as any other contract. No form of agreement is provided, and no one, unless he pleases, need enter into anything in the nature of a contract capable of being legally enforced.]

7. All funds to be raised by means of any such voluntary rate, and all such other voluntary contributions as aforesaid, for the receipt and expenditure whereof no special provision may be made by or with the concurrence of the contributors, shall be paid to the churchwardens or chapelwardens of such parish or ecclesiastical district, and shall be expended for the purposes for which the same shall have been paid or contributed by the churchwardens or chapelwardens, under and subject to the same or the like responsibility and control as churchwardens or chapelwardens are now by law subject in respect of the application and expenditure of monies raised by Church-rates; and an account of such expenditure shall, once at least in every year, be rendered by the churchwardens or chapelwardens to the parishioners or inhabitants, in vestry assembled, of such parish or district: Provided always, that if any churchwarden or chapelwarden shall be disqualified to vote or act (as hereinafter provided) a treasurer may be elected in his stead, who may receive and expend such funds subject to the same responsibility and control, and to the same obligation of rendering an annual account thereof, as aforesaid: Provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorise any alteration of the fabric or ornaments or services of any church which would not be lawful if this Act had not passed.

[Under this Clause Churchwardens will be placed in the same position in regard to voluntary rates, or contributions, as they are now in respect to com-

pulsory rates, and must present an account thereof to the vestry. But if a Churchwarden is disqualified to act (under Clause 8) because he has not paid the preceding voluntary rate, a Treasurer may be chosen in his stead. The proviso at the end of the Clause will prevent those who may pay voluntary rates or subscriptions exercising any authority in regard to the fabric, or the services, which they do not possess in common with the rest of the parishioners.]

8. No person shall have any right to vote upon any question as to making any such voluntary rate, or to vote or act, as churchwarden or chapelwarden or otherwise, in or as to the disposal of funds raised by any such voluntary rate or by such voluntary contributions as aforesaid (the rector, vicar, perpetual curate, or other incumbent of a parish or ecclesiastical district excepted), who shall not have paid up his voluntary rate for the last preceding occasion on which such a voluntary rate as aforesaid shall have been made, or paid a voluntary contribution in aid of the same fund which in amount is not less than that of his voluntary rate.

[This is the only disqualifying Clause in the Act.

When a voluntary rate is first asked for, every parishioner will have the right to attend and vote. Afterwards, only those can do so who have paid the last voluntary rate, or a contribution equal in amount to their share of the rate. The exclusion is confined to the making of rates, and (apparently) does not extend to the passing of the account. Those who, by their own act, are excluded in any year, can resume their rights by paying the next voluntary rate. Any one—whether he has paid or not—may be chosen as Churchwarden; but, in the latter case, he cannot act in respect to the disposal of the funds raised.]

9. No new parish or ecclesiastical district formed or to be hereafter formed out of any other parish shall be deemed to be part of such last mentioned parish for the purpose of enabling any occupier of land within the same to vote, in respect of such land, at any vestry as a parishioner of the parish out of which such new parish or ecclesiastical district shall have been formed, upon any question relating to the making or the application of any voluntary rate, or to the election of a treasurer under this Act.

[This is intended to facilitate the making of voluntary rates in new, or district parishes, by removing doubts as to the area within which rates should be made in the old parishes.]

10. Any owner of land within any parish or district who shall have paid on behalf of the occupier thereof the last preceding rate which shall have been made in respect of such land under this Act shall be entitled to vote, instead and in the place of such occupier, at any vestry to be held for the purposes of this Act, but not for any other purpose; and all trustees, when in the management and receipt of the rents and profits of any land, and all guardians, husbands, or committees (as the case may be) of owners under disability, shall be deemed to be owners for the purposes of this Act; and any one of several joint owners may, with the consent of the others of them, exercise such right of voting on his and their joint behalf: Provided always, that no such payment shall be made by the owner without the consent of the occupier until one month after such rate shall have been agreed upon.

[If the tenant does not wish to pay a voluntary rate, the landlord may do so, at the expiration of a month, and, on his doing so, he, instead of the tenant, will have the right to attend the vestry when the account is presented, and when the next rate is made. If the tenant chooses to pay that next rate himself, he regains his right.]

11. This act may be cited as "The Compulsory Church Rate Abolition Act, 1868."

THE PRESS AND THE IRISH CHURCH RESOLUTIONS.

The ripening of public opinion in favour of the disendowment of the Irish Church, to which Mr. Gladstone so emphatically alluded in the late Irish debate, is indicated by the tone of the principal organs of the press. The *Times* has been gradually growing more earnest in the expression of its views. On Tuesday it had no hesitation in declaring that the Irish Church is doomed. There is no halting-place between the present state of affairs and disendowment, and the present state of affairs cannot be maintained. Still the *Times* holds that the task of disendowment is not within the functions of the present House of Commons.

There is truth in Mr. Disraeli's denial of its moral competence to abolish the Irish Church. Parliament is, without doubt, legally competent to do anything, nor is it easy to determine the limits of its legitimate action. But there is no greater political fallacy than that of denying the existence of limits because they cannot be rigidly marked out. The present House of Commons may properly decide the question whether Scotland should have additional members, but who would declare that the present House of Commons might repeal the Union between England and Scotland? It is thus with the Irish Establishment. The House of Commons may, and it is to be hoped will, declare with no hesitating voice, that the Irish Establishment, as an Establishment, must cease to exist; but it will rightly remit to the Legislature appointed to succeed it the option of confirming its opinion and of pointing out the way of carrying it into effect.

On Wednesday the leading journal emphatically repudiated the "absurd" idea that Mr. Disraeli could dissolve Parliament if his rival's resolutions should be adopted—

It is sufficient to state what is meant by "an appeal

to the country" at the present time to demonstrate its absurdity. The moral competence of condemned constituencies cannot be greater than the moral competence of a moribund Parliament. Let us recall Lord Stanley's argument on this very point. Looking forward to the chance of a dissolution before the work of Reform had been perfected, he pointed out "in what an extraordinary position the House and the country would be placed." "If you appeal," he said, "to the old constituencies, you make your appeal to those whom the House has by its deliberate vote already condemned, and from whom it has transferred political power," and if an appeal were made to constituencies imperfectly reformed, it would be an appeal to "an electoral body, the creation of an accident, never intended to be the depository of political power." It is right and proper that the country should express an opinion on the disendowment of the Irish Church before Parliament proceeds to legislate upon it, and in the ordinary course of events that which must henceforth be regarded as "the country" will have such an opportunity. The true constituencies to prescribe the national policy and approve or disprove the conduct of Parliament are the constituencies formed by the Act of last year.

The House of Commons has, by a combination of circumstances little anticipated when it was elected, been called upon to express its deliberate opinion upon the Irish Church Establishment—an opinion which must be pronounced under the responsibility of future action upon it, although, by the peculiar nature of the case, action must be necessarily deferred for another twelvemonth.

The *Daily News* observes that, judging from the language used in regard to moral competence, one would be forced to the conclusion that Parliamentary institutions were in abeyance in England. When a Ministry is in a minority and is without a policy, the House of Commons is practically the Government, and with power it incurs responsibility. It is bound to act so as to meet the exigencies of the moment, and while doing so, in such circumstances as the present, to secure freedom of action for its successors. The resolutions of which Mr. Gladstone has given notice are fitted to attain both these ends. Perhaps Mr. Disraeli will provisionally acquiesce in Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, should they be carried against him, and reserve his appeal for the general election and the new Parliament—a course of conduct which, in being sensible and business-like, is to that extent patriotic.

The *Star* insists that the Liberal party must go through with this thing to the end, now that they have at last taken it up. They must not be content with declaring the doom of the Irish Church. They must make up their minds to take whatever steps are necessary to remove from power any Minister who has pronounced in favour of upholding that monstrous grievance, that fruitful source of hatred, disaffection, and civil war.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* thinks the course taken by Mr. Gladstone, the most honourable course. His resolutions are satisfactory because they are thorough. That the abolition of the Irish State Church is a matter of vast responsibility is true; but it is also a matter of vast responsibility to leave untouched a grievance of enormous magnitude in a country full of discontent and incendiarism. One day the thing must be done—that is admitted by those who are or affect to be most appalled by the difficulties of the task; and the result of these resolutions will be—at least, and whatever their fate—that some sincerity will be shown about doing it. That alone is a result worth fighting for; and we are persuaded that the Opposition as a party will gain by the fight, and through the fight, to whichever side the immediate victory falls. In another article the *Pall Mall* points to the fact that the carrying of the resolutions would afford an opportunity for giving to the Irish direct, tangible, solid proof that there is a real desire on the part of the rest of the United Kingdom to treat them with justice.

The moral significance of carrying Mr. Gladstone's resolutions will be enormous, and the significance of refusing them will hardly be less. The first course may very probably turn out to be the first step towards the final contentment and pacification of the country. The second would be a denial of justice which would be rendered tolerable only by the reflection that the Parliament so denying it is on its last legs, and is likely to be succeeded by a body constituted in a different manner. How any one who regards himself as in any sense a member of the Liberal party can doubt this, we are totally unable to understand. It is equally difficult to see what interest the nation at large has in the purely irrelevant question which Mr. Disraeli will no doubt take every opportunity of raising as to the reasons why this question has of late assumed so much more prominence than has hitherto belonged to it.

The question as to what disendowment means, and how it might be carried out, is treated by the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Daily News*. The first-named journal remarks:—

To disestablish an Established Church is like picking out part of a very intricate piece of needlework. Church and State run into each other in such a singular way that a good deal of special information and possibly the appointment of some sort of subordinate commission for the purpose of arranging details would be required. In order to destroy the character of the Established Church in Ireland as a legal establishment it would be necessary to take the following amongst other steps. The Irish bishops must be removed from the House of Lords, and the bishops who do not sit there must be deprived of their character as peers. The ecclesiastical courts must be deprived of all coercive jurisdiction, except over the present race of benighted clergymen. The vested interests of all existing holders of benefices would be effectually secured by simply providing that no successors should be appointed to their preferments, but that they should not be disturbed in what they possessed at a given point of time. Commissioners would have to be appointed in whom Church property should be vested subject to the life interests of

the holders, and who, as the livings fell in, might sell the endowments and dispose of the money as Parliament might direct. The compensation of patrons would of course form a first charge upon the funds realised, and by way of being generous, though we cannot think that strict justice would require it, the fellows of Trinity College and the members of Irish chapters might be compensated for the loss of their chance of succeeding to a college or chapter living.

A far more important part of the measure would be the provision of a body corporate, which might succeed as a voluntary institution to such of the churches as might, according to Mr. Bright's suggestion, be made over to the Episcopal Church regarded as a voluntary society, and to such of the endowments as are of modern date, and were contributed towards the existing institution in its present condition. The way to provide for this would be to enact that it should be lawful for the Crown to incorporate such persons as might wish to enter into such a corporation by the name of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Ireland if they would agree to regulate their religious affairs by the laws which have hitherto prevailed in the Established Church. This body might be enabled to hold land or buildings for the purposes of religious worship, and might take over all such endowments as have been appropriated in recent times to the existing Protestant Church. It would be necessary no doubt to appoint Commissioners with power to adjudicate upon particular cases, in order to make the transfer from the one state of things to the other, and some degree of skill would be necessary to adjust the relations between this Church and the Established Church of England. This might be matter of some nicety, but Parliament has in its time done far more difficult things than this.

The *Daily News* says that the process of disestablishment may assume one of two forms—

The rule may be laid down that after a certain date vacancies occurring in the Crown livings and ecclesiastical dignities of the Protestant Establishment shall not be filled up. The State Church, as a State Church, will, on this plan, be allowed gradually to fade away. In each benefice and diocese it will be disestablished, as the occasion arises. The ecclesiastical revolution will thus be affected gradually; and time will be given to those more immediately concerned in it to make arrangements for the new state of things on which they are about to enter. A distinguished Irish prelate lately recommended the reduction of the Irish Protestant Episcopate to one Archbishop and, we believe, six bishops—a number which he considers adequate to the spiritual needs of the communion. If this estimate, or anything like it, be correct, it is obvious that, on the plan described, arrangements might be made for placing vacant sees under the authority of the bishop of an adjoining diocese until the organisation of the Church on the voluntary principle had been completed. In the case of a metropolitan see becoming vacant, the province might for the time be merged in that of the surviving Archbishop, or be placed under the care of a Primate voluntarily chosen by his suffragans. In populous districts the wealth and numbers of the Protestants ought to be able to provide on emergency for their own spiritual necessities, as Churches neither wealthy nor numerous find no difficulty in doing. In districts—and they are not very few—in which the congregation consists of the parson's household and of some "dearly beloved Roger," the living which existed only for the sake of the clergyman, would naturally disappear with the clergyman. The localities which occupy middle ground between the two extremes which we have noticed would probably have their wants provided for by an intermediate process. When they had done what they could for themselves, their wealthier neighbours would help them. To many it will appear that this gradual and insensible extinction, this painless euthanasia of the Irish Church Establishment, would be the best solution of the difficulty. At first the demands upon the zeal and liberality of the Protestant communion would be small; and time would be allowed it for the organisation of its resources as a free Church. Another plan which has been proposed and very ably defended in our columns by our correspondent, "An Ulster Presbyterian," recommends the settlement of the question out of hand, and at one stroke, by the capitalisation of the ecclesiastical revenues, and the transfer to commissioners or other selected representatives of the Church, of a lump sum representing the value of the life interest of the present incumbents. The funds thus obtained would afford ample provision for the present necessities of the Church and for its permanent organisation in severance from the State. The respective merits of these new schemes we do not propose here to discuss. Both are strictly equitable; and the preference to be given to one or the other will turn less upon its intrinsic superiority than upon considerations of fitness in relation to time and circumstances. There is need, above all things, of prompt action. The second of the two plans to which we have referred would require elaborate previous inquiry in order to ascertain the facts, and no small amount of labour in order to give it legislative shape. Its adoption would involve a delay of some years. On the other scheme, which is likely to be recommended in the resolution which Mr. Gladstone will announce this evening, action would be almost instantaneously taken. In the present condition of Ireland this promptitude would be an enormous advantage. A pledge of sincerity is needed. Ireland has been fed long enough on the chameleon's dish—the air—she has been promise-crammed, and unless acts accompany professions, the professions will be little regarded.

The *Spectator* and *Examiner* are heartily in favour of disestablishment. The former thinks that in throwing over the Irish Church the principle of Established Churches is not wrecked, but perhaps saved from wreck. In fact, it is the Irish Church Establishment which threatens the English and Scotch Establishments, not the latter which protect the former. The *Saturday Review*, while assailing Mr. Gladstone, thinks that no mistakes which he or any one else can make can save much longer a religious institution for which its friends have nothing to say except that it is a good sort of political garrison. But all religious controversies are bitter, and the controversies which the fate of the Irish Church will evoke will be especially bitter, because they affect the private fortunes of so many individuals.

Some of the Church papers are not very enthusiastic on behalf of the Irish Church. The *Guardian* regards that Church as having been no source of strength to the English and Scotch Establishments. They would probably have been stronger than they are had the Irish never existed. Nor is the principle of defending outworks, on which some love to insist, generally a sound one in politics.

In a siege, which is an attack that cannot be protracted indefinitely, an outwork is defended in order to exhaust the enemy's resources and gain time. In politics these reasons do not apply. A time may come—probably it will—when the English Establishment must fall—and circumstances may also come which would render that great calamity (as it would now be) no great calamity to the English Church. That time will not, we believe, be made more remote by the most steadfast resistance to the tremendous demolition which is now threatened. Nevertheless it is an event to which the English Church, as an Establishment, cannot reasonably be expected to gaze indifferent and unmoved. As to the party aspect of the question, the *Guardian* says:—"If our sympathies with the defence are not very strong, with the attack as it now stands we have no sympathy at all."

The *Record* stands up for the Irish Church as guaranteed by the Act of Union, and as involving the other Establishments. But the endowment of Romanism, as proposed by Earl Grey and Earl Russell, is scouted by the voice of the nation, and the *Record*, of the two, would prefer the abolition of the Irish Establishment. There are multitudes who, like Dr. McNeill, the great champion of Protestantism, would, as a painful alternative, infinitely prefer Protestant disestablishment to the endowment of the corrupt apostasy of Rome.

The *Watchman* is unable to lend a helping hand to its Church friends. Noticing that on Tuesday the *Standard* gave the most conspicuous place to a reiteration of the sentiment that the Protestant religion in Ireland should no longer be the object of the undivided favour of the State, and that the clergy of every religious denomination should be relieved of all anxiety as to their temporal necessities by a general and undistinguishing endowment, our contemporary says "It is especially this line of argument which Sir G. G. Lewis would have found it impossible to follow now, were he still alive, that deprives the cause of the Irish Church, when so defended, of the sympathy of British Protestants, whether they are called 'Low Churchmen' or 'the fanatics of Exeter Hall.' Yet the *Standard* talks about a 'No Popery' panic—a cry, which if heard at all, is raised against the 'Catholic University,' and its affiliated colleges. Haven't the Tories been raising a pro-Popery excitement?"

The Irish papers are alive to the importance of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions. In the Roman Catholic journals unqualified satisfaction is expressed at the resolutions. The *Freeman* commends their plain, straightforward character. It thinks that they are certainly not weak, and that it is even possible they may be too strong for a few Liberals, but that the overwhelming majority of the party will support them, and that Mr. Gladstone may be strengthened by the adhesion of some moderate Conservatives. The *Post* observes that "it is the self-acting character of the resolutions that constitutes their paramount value and their adequacy to the crisis." It exhorts the Irish people and representatives to support them. The *Northern Whig* and the *Cork Examiner* write in terms of warm approval. In the Conservative organs a very different tone is taken. The *Daily Express* says:—

Considered as a remedy for Irish discontent, Mr. Gladstone's proposal is ridiculous. As an anti-Church motion it betrays a lively perception of the innate love of justice of the British people, and their firm determination to maintain our Protestant institutions. . . . It is not brought forward now because it is right or opportune, or because its effect upon Ireland would be beneficial. It does not even deserve the praise of being outspoken, manly, and complete, for it tries to conceal the anti-Protestant character of the whole movement, and to smuggle in a disendowment scheme under what would commonly be regarded as false pretences.

The *Mail* sees little difference between Mr. Gladstone's and Mr. Disraeli's policy. They are both, it says, "avowedly levellers, but from and to opposite points." It thinks that "Mr. Disraeli's plan is not less fatal ultimately, but it is more gradual. The Irish Church finds now two propositions before it. Mr. Gladstone offers to despatch it at a blow with his iron mace. Mr. Disraeli proposes tapping a few veins, and placing the patient in a warm bath." The *Irish Times* says:—"More momentous resolutions could hardly be proposed, or more calculated to aggravate the divisions which unhappily prevail in this country with the enduring bitterness of polemical animosity." The *Belfast News Letter* argues that "not only must all State support of religion be abandoned with the abolition of the Irish Church, but the precedent would be fatal to the aristocracy and the Crown." It repeats the arguments that Roman Catholic discontent would not be lessened, that a demand for the confiscated estates would follow disestablishment, that greater animosity would spring up between the two races, and that the attachment of the loyal people to England would be weakened. The *Derry Sentinel* observes, in a similar spirit, that "if one robbery is to be commenced others would follow, and is it to be supposed that Protestants would tamely submit to all this? They are not the sons of their fathers if they do." Other provincial journals on both sides have articles on the subject expressing opposite views.

THE IRISH CHURCH MOVEMENT.

SHEFFIELD.—On the 19th inst. Mr. Mason Jones delivered an address to a large audience in the Temperance Hall, Sheffield. Mr. J. H. Barber co-

occupied the chair. The following gentlemen were present:—The Revs. C. Larom, D. Loxton, J. P. Gledstons, Giles Hester, C. Short, M.A., J. Newsholme, J. Calvert, T. Parkinson, &c., and Messrs. J. H. Barber, S. Chapman, R. Leader, S. Plimsoll, W. Sissons, E. Hall, C. Doncaster, D. T. Ingham, Nadin, &c., &c. Mr. M. Jones spoke at great length, and sat down amid protracted applause at the conclusion. Mr. Tarbock essayed to ask a number of questions, but was not allowed to do so on account of the lateness of the hour. The Rev. D. Loxton moved the adoption of a petition setting forth the injustice of the Irish Church politically, socially, and religiously, and praying that all endowments that exist may be withdrawn. The rev. gentleman, in the course of his speech, opposed the statements made by one of the members for Sheffield, to the effect that the Irish Church was no more a grievance than was the Church of England in this country. Though a Dissenter, he was of opinion that if there was to be a State Church in England it should be the Episcopalian, that body being the largest; but it was just the opposite with the Irish Church. He was of opinion that the Irish Church property should be devoted to the benefit of the people at large, and not to the aristocracy, as had been the case with confiscated Church properties in former days. Mr. R. Leader seconded the adoption of the petition, which was supported by Mr. S. Plimsoll, who characterised the Irish Church, in its present form, as a great iniquity. The petition was carried by a large majority. On the motion of the Rev. C. Short, M.A., seconded by the Rev. G. Hester, a vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer. In responding to the vote Mr. Jones explained that as he was almost incessantly at work lecturing and travelling he could not well stand badgering with questions, and he recommended Mr. Tarbock to give a counter lecture if he objected to what had been said. Mr. Tarbock insisted on his right to ask questions, but on the chairman putting it to the vote, the meeting decided that he should not be allowed.

IPSWICH.—We were unable to give a report of the meeting in this town in our last number, which was addressed by Mr. Mason Jones. E. Grimwade, Esq., occupied the chair, and amongst a number of gentlemen on the platform were the Revs. Eliezer Jones, T. M. Morris, and R. A. Griffin, Messrs. O. Prentice, A. Piper, J. Neve, B. Birkett, W. Piper, W. Fraser, H. Andrews, S. Thompson, and other Non-conformists of the town. The *Suffolk Mercury* says that Mr. Jones kept the large audience in rapt attention for two hours and a quarter. On the motion of Mr. A. Piper, seconded by Mr. J. Neve, a vote of thanks was accorded unanimously to Mr. Mason Jones, who, in acknowledging the vote, said he thought they would be arriving at a "lame and impotent conclusion" if they did not pass such a resolution as the following:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the Irish Church Establishment is a grievous injustice to the people of that country, and that a petition be presented to the House of Commons, signed on behalf of this meeting by the Chairman, calling upon the Legislature impartially to disendow every Church in Ireland.

(Applause.) The Rev. Eliezer Jones moved the resolution, which Mr. Oliver Prentice seconded, and which was carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks was then accorded to the chairman, and the interesting proceedings were brought to a termination.

LEEDS.—The Music-hall at Leeds was crowded on the 20th inst. to hear Mr. Jones on the Irish Church. Mr. Joseph Lupton presided, and amongst those present were Alderman Carter, Alderman Blackburn; Councillors Gaunt, Shepherd, Linsley, Barran, Carr; Rev. W. Thomas; Messrs. T. R. Clark, Pallister, F. R. Spark, J. Andrew, Smith, J. N. Dickenson, W. Hickes, Atkinson, &c. Previous to Mr. Jones delivering his address, Mr. George Thompson, the old and respected champion of the Anti-Slavery movement, gave a short but impressive speech. He said that one aim of his life had been to promote human freedom—(Hear, hear, and applause.)—freedom without respect to clime, or colour, or creed. (Cheers.) His first object had been personal freedom. The second great work in which he had been engaged had been commercial freedom; and as for religious freedom, if there was a freedom that man might claim on earth, it was the liberty to worship God according to his wishes. (Hear, hear, and applause.) A petition, in favour of a complete disendowment of all religious institutions in Ireland, was moved by Mr. Jones, and seconded by Mr. John Andrew. The Rev. Mr. Walters, a young clergyman, came forward to move an amendment, and was received with a storm of groans and hisses. After several minutes were spent in an attempt to make himself heard, he leant over the orchestra to address the reporters, whereupon the noise became so great, that he was compelled to desist. His chief objection to Mr. Jones was that the lecturer doubted that the present Church in Ireland was identical with the ancient Church as regards her doctrines. Mr. Walters declared that it was. Mr. John Woodhead seconded the amendment, for which about twenty hands were held up. The petition was then adopted with great cheering. Councillor Barran proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Jones. Mr. T. R. Clarke seconded, remarking that it was not a question whether the Church in Ireland now is the same as it was hundreds of years ago, but whether we, as Christians, could consent to force a religious creed upon a people against their wishes, and make them pay for it. (Cheers.) The vote of thanks was carried enthusiastically. Mr. George Thompson replied on behalf of Mr. Jones, and complimented that gentleman for his lecture, which, he said, was the most

able and eloquent he had ever listened to in his long experience. The people, he remarked, had swept away abuses of various kinds, and they would now sweep away the abuse of secular authority over religion. (Applause.) A vote of thanks to the chairman, heartily given, closed the proceedings.

SUNDERLAND.—On Tuesday of last week the Rev. W. Walters, of Newcastle, delivered a lecture in the Athenæum, Fawcett-street, on the "Irish Church Establishment." Mr. Andrew Common apologised for the absence of the Mayor, who had been announced to preside, but had been prevented by illness from attending. He read a letter from the Mayor, however, who expressed his opinion that, as Dissenters, they could only consistently demand equality and entire disendowment in Ireland. John Haloro, Esq., was then called to the chair. Before calling upon Mr. Walters the chairman congratulated his fellow-townsmen who took an interest in the question, on the grand impulse it had received within the past twenty-four hours. The announcement made in the House of Commons by the greatest statesman of the age, Mr. Gladstone, who had pronounced his opinion to be in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church, advances the question into a more favourable position. The unholy connection between Church and State exercised the most paralysing influence on Christianity. In Ireland it was the cause of much dissatisfaction; it was at the root of Fenianism and rebellion, which occur again and again. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. John Andrew, M.A., A. Rees, Mr. W. Wight, and the Rev. G. V. Barker.

ARBROATH.—A meeting has also been held at Arbroath, Provost Corsar occupying the chair. It was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Allan. The Rev. Mr. Johnstone addressed the audience on the subject of the Irish Church, and moved a resolution in favour of its total disendowment. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. J. W. Simpson, the Rev. D. Cork (Dundee), the Rev. Mr. Gillies, and the Rev. Mr. Sorley; and a local committee was appointed.

SURREY CHAPEL.—On Monday evening, Mr. Handel Cossham, of Bristol, delivered an able lecture on "Ireland, and how to deal with it," in the course of which he referred to the alien Church in that country, and earnestly advocated the adoption of religious equality by the disendowment of all religious sects.

An influential meeting was held at 1, Whitehall-gardens, on Saturday afternoon, when it was decided to adopt energetic measures for defending the Irish Church, and with this view a great meeting will be held in London next month.

Archdeacon Denison is delighted that Mr. Gladstone has plainly avowed his hostility to the Irish Church. In a letter to the *Herald*, he says:—"Men cannot agree upon principles, and the next best thing is that the disagreement should be distinct and final."

The Bishop of London is stated to have said on Friday, at a clerical dinner held at the Charterhouse, that he considered it would be a national calamity if by the severance of the Irish Church from the State a great organisation against the Papacy were removed.

The committee of the Irish National Association has resumed its sittings after many months of inactivity. At a meeting on Friday the chair was occupied by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kilmore, and there was a large attendance of both the clergy and laity. Alderman M'Swiney explained that the association had suspended its meetings because they wished to give the Government a fair trial, but they now found that its policy was the same as that which had for centuries marred the country's progress. A letter was then read from Cardinal Cullen, in which his Eminence congratulated the association on the good service it had rendered to the country. It was now admitted that the Established Church was an injustice and an insult to the people, and English statesmen appeared to be determined to put an end to it. They also seemed to be convinced that legislation on the land question was necessary; and as to education, they had made so much progress that Government had manifested their intention to grant a charter to a Catholic University. These favourable appearances, however, should not lull the association into serenity or induce it to relax its efforts. He contemplated the prospect of a long and noisy struggle on the part of the Orangemen and others in defence of existing abuses, characterised as a delusion the notion that the Roman Catholic laity desired to be protected against Ultramontanism, and warned the association of the efforts which would be made by the Orange party in Ireland and the anti-Christian schools in England to deprive the people of the advantages of a Christian education and the blessings conferred upon them by the true faith. Resolutions were passed demanding a total disendowment of the Established Church, a modification of the land laws, and a charter without delay for a Roman Catholic University.

At a meeting of Orangemen of Enniskillen for the purpose of expressing sympathy with "Johnstone of Ballykilbeg," sentiments were expressed worthy of the old days of Orange supremacy. The Rev. Henry Burdett, who presided, rivalled the Rev. Tutor and Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, Mr. Ferrar, in the energy of his language. He, for one, as long as the Lord left him breath, would never be content with anything but Protestant ascendancy. It was time to stand on the watch-tower and cry "No surrender." The Rev. John Flanagan, rector of Killeven, was, however, the most outspoken orator

on the occasion. He warned Parliament and the Government that if they ever dared to lay unholy hands on the Church of Ireland, 200,000 Orangemen will tell them it shall never be. Protestant loyalty, he declared, must make itself understood; it is conditional, and must be explained as such. "Will you Orangemen of Ireland," said the rev. gentleman, appealing to the audience, "endorse the doctrine of unconditional loyalty?" Repeated cries of "No, never," was the response. Mr. Flanagan proceeded to say:—

The question arises, on what are we to throw ourselves? We might plead the Act of Union in 1800, or the provisions of the Emancipation Act in 1829, or we might refer to past services rendered to England in the hour of need. It appears wonderful that there is one thing upon which we can confidently throw ourselves, which has been overlooked by nearly all the speakers, I mean the Queen's Coronation Oath. She should be reminded that one of her ancestors, who swore to maintain the Protestant religion, forgot his oath and his crown was kicked into the Boyne. (Cheers.) We must speak out boldly and tell our gracious Queen that if she breaks her oath she has no longer any claim to the crown. Let us not put any trust in man, but trust to God and ourselves. "Put your trust in God, my boys, and keep your powder dry." William, of glorious memory, took the same line of action. "Be not dismayed, my boys," he said, "for the loss of one commander, for God will be our king this day, and I'll be the general under." (Great cheers.)

In conclusion, he said:—"If there were a thousand Mr. Cogan in Parliament, let us tell them it is by blood they must acquire the blood-bought rights of the Protestants of Ireland." (Immense applause, cheers, and Kentish fire.) A resolution was adopted for the establishment of a local Protestant Defence Association, to act in concert with the parent society, to be composed of Protestants of all denominations, and pledging the meeting to defend their rights as Protestants, and, if necessary, to shed their blood as their ancestors did in maintaining them.

At a meeting of the National Reform Union at Manchester on Tuesday, Mr. Warburton in the chair, Mr. Barr moved, and Mr. Councillor G. Booth seconded, the following resolution, viz.:—"This committee earnestly hopes that the branches and friends of the National Reform Union will take all proper means to assist every effort in obtaining justice to Ireland, and that they will urge upon their representatives in Parliament the necessity of supporting Mr. Gladstone in his motion for the disestablishment of the Irish Church, in order to meet the demands of sound policy no less than of simple justice." A number of gentleman addressed the meeting, all agreeing in the importance of the friends of the Union being fully prepared to help forward the movement for doing justice to Ireland.

The Bishop of Lichfield and New Zealand, in a recent letter to the Secretary of the Church Institution in the Irish Church, says:—"From all that I heard and saw of the Irish Church during a recent tour in Ireland, I am heartily inclined to do all that I can to support it as it is, or if it be damaged or destroyed, to assist in repairing or rebuilding it."

The London Working Men's Association intend to hold a public meeting on Tuesday evening next at Freemasons' Hall, in support of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions now before the House of Commons. Several members of Parliament and other gentlemen favourable to the movement have already signified their intention to be present. A sub-committee of the association has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting. Should the weather prove at all favourable, it is likely that an out-door meeting will be held in the same evening, as it is not thought probable any hall will be sufficiently large to contain the number of persons that will attend the meeting. The association have also adopted a resolution calling upon all Liberal organisations throughout the country at once to hold meetings in support of Mr. Gladstone; and expressing a hope that the disgraceful and treacherous proceedings of a section of the Liberal members last session will not be repeated on the present occasion.

PETITIONS ON THE IRISH CHURCH AND UNIVERSITY TESTS.

Up to the 20th of March there had been presented to the House of Commons 64 petitions with 5,261 signatures against the disendowment of the Irish Church, including three in which the committee report that the signatures are nearly all in the same handwriting. Some of them are described as emanating from "Protestants of all denominations." Up to the same period there were 37 petitions with 753 signatures in favour of disendowment.

The petitions in favour of Mr. Coleridge's Oxford and Cambridge Universities Tests Bill up to March 20th were 23 with 1,155 signatures. They include petitions from the Board of Congregational Ministers, Haverfordwest College, and a number of congregations.

On Monday night petitions in favour of the disendowment of the Irish Church were presented from Barnstaple and Redruth. On Tuesday by Mr. A. Russell, from Tavistock, for disendowment of the Irish Church; also by Mr. Dillwyn, from Independent Protestant Dissenters at Croydon, by Lord Amberley, from a public meeting at Nottingham, and by Mr. Alderman Lusk, from congregation of Union Chapel, Islington.

On Monday petitions in favour of the abolition of tests in the Universities were presented by Mr. Fawcett, from various religious bodies in Haworth and its vicinity, and other places; by Mr. W. E. Forster, from the Baptist College, Rawdon; by Lord Elliot, from congregation of Hope Chapel, Devonport; by Mr. S. Ibbetson, from Independents at

Romford; by Mr. Graham, from clergymen of various denominations in Glasgow; by Mr. Davey, from Protestant Dissenters of Redruth; and by Mr. Baines, from Headingley-hill Congregational Church. On Tuesday petitions to the same effect were presented, by Mr. Baines, from a public meeting at Leeds, also from the Liberal Registration Association and others; by Mr. P. A. Taylor, from Protestant Dissenters of Leicester; by Mr. Pease, from Baptists and others at Hartlepool, Claypath, and Darlington; by Mr. Acland, from Protestant Dissenters at Great Torrington; by Mr. Alderman Lusk, from Islington; by Mr. C. H. Lindsay, from the Protestant Dissenters of the Baptist Chapel, Abingdon; by Mr. Villiers, from Protestant Dissenters in Wolverhampton; by Sir F. Crossley, from the Baptist Chapel, Horsforth, Protestant Dissenters, Ledburgh, and other places; by Mr. R. Padmore, from Protestant Dissenters, Worcester; by Mr. A. C. Barclay, from Baptists at Taunton; by Sir T. Western, from Brentwood and other places; by Mr. Lee, from Protestant Dissenters, Maidstone; by Mr. E. Hamilton, from the Nonconformists in Salisbury; by Sir E. M. Buller, from Protestant Dissenters at Leek; by Mr. J. B. Smith, from Baptists and the Tabernacle, Stockport; by Lord Amberley, from Baptists at Nottingham; by Sir H. Rawlinson, from the Nonconformists at Frome; by Mr. Hankey, from Protestant Dissenters of Peterborough; by Mr. C. W. Martin, from Dissenters of Newport; by Mr. J. D. Harris, from Dissenters at Leicester; by Mr. H. Cowper, from St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead; by Mr. Warner, from Protestant Dissenters of Norwich; by Mr. T. T. Paget, from Protestant Dissenters at Countesthorpe; by Mr. T. B. Potter, from Baptists of Rochdale; by Mr. Evans, from Derby; by Mr. Watkin, from Unitarians at Stockport; by Mr. Coleridge, from Protestant Dissenters of Newton Abbot, Honiton, and other places; by Mr. Butler, from Dissenters at Kingsland Congregational Church; by Mr. Otway, from the Nonconformist inhabitants of Chatham; and by Mr. Ormsby Gore, from Dissenters in Oswestry.

STATISTICS OF THE IRISH CHURCH.

The relative numbers of the principal religious bodies in Ireland according to the census returns of 1861 were as follows:—Members of the Established Church, 693,357, or 11.9 per cent. of the total population; Roman Catholics, 4,505,265, or 77.7 per cent.; Presbyterians, 523,291, or 9.0 per cent.; Methodists, 45,399, or 0.8 per cent.; Independents, 4,532; Baptists, 4,237; Quakers, 3,695, or 0.1 per cent.; persons returned under all other persuasions, 18,798, or 0.3 per cent., exclusive of 993 Jews. The province of Ulster contained the largest number of persons in communion with the Established Church, the members of which amounted to 391,315, or 20.4 per cent. of the population of that province. In Leinster the Established Church had 180,587 adherents, or 12.39 per cent. of the population; in Munster they numbered 80,860, or 5.3 per cent.; and in Connaught, where the numbers of the Established Church were fewest, absolutely and relatively to population, they amounted to 40,595, or 4.44 per cent. The number of members of the Established Church in proportion to population was greatest in the county of Fermanagh, 40,608, or 38.4 per cent. The suburbs of the city of Dublin follow, with 17,668, or 35 per cent., and the county of Armagh, with 58,735, or 30.9 per cent. In the counties of Down and Tyrone respectively the numbers were 60,905 and 52,240, or 20.3 and 21.9 per cent. In the town of Belfast they were 29,832, or 24.7 per cent. In the counties of Dublin (exclusive of the suburbs of the city), Wicklow, Antrim, and Londonderry, in the county of the town of Carrickfergus, and in the city of Dublin, the members of the Established Church were more than 15 and under 20 per cent. In the King's and Queen's counties, and in the counties of Cavan, Carlow, Kildare, Donegal, and Monaghan, and in the city of Cork their percentage was over 10 and under 15. In the counties of Longford, Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Cork (East and West Ridings), Tipperary (North Riding), Leitrim, and Sligo, in the town of Drogheda, and cities of Kilkenny, Limerick, and Waterford, Protestants of the Established Church were over 5 and under 10 per cent. In the counties of Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary (South Riding), Kerry, and Roscommon, and in the town of Galway the percentages exceeded 3, and were under 5. In the counties of Waterford, Galway, and Mayo they exceeded 2, and were under 3; and in the county of Clare the members of the Established Church formed only 2 per cent. of its population. It is noteworthy that while the members of the Irish Church did not constitute a majority, or the principal section, of the population in any of the counties or towns enumerated above, yet in the county of the town of Carrickfergus they formed a majority compared with the Roman Catholics, the proportional numbers being 19.3 for the Established Church, and 11.1 for Roman Catholics, while the Presbyterians were 59.2 per cent. In the counties of Antrim and Down, the county of the town of Carrickfergus, and the town of Belfast, the Roman Catholics were outnumbered by the Presbyterians. Of the entire population of the 33 Parliamentary boroughs (797,467) the number belonging to the Established Church was 132,120, or 16.6 per cent. In the boroughs of Carrickfergus and Coleraine the members of the Irish Church were in a majority as regards Roman Catholics, and in the borough of Lisburn they were the largest section. Turning to the towns of Ireland, it appears that in Drogheda (county of Down), Lurgan, and Portadown (county of Armagh), Portobello, in the suburbs of

Dublin, and Lisburn, in the counties of Antrim and Down, the members of the Established Church formed the largest section of the population, but nowhere did they constitute an absolute majority over all denominations except in the town of Portobello, which included 778 military of the Established Church resident in the barracks. In the 27 years, 1834 to 1861, the population of Ireland has decreased 2,155,133; the Roman Catholic population had fallen off by as many as 1,930,795, or 30 per cent., and the Protestant by 224,731, or 14.8 per cent. The decrease in the Established Church was 159,803, or 18.7 per cent. Dividing the population of Ireland into two grand classes, Protestant and Roman Catholic, it appears that the former amounted to 1,289,209, or 22.23 per cent., while the latter amounted to 4,505,265, or 77.69 per cent. The proportional number of Protestants and Roman Catholics respectively in each province was 14.0 and 85.9 in Leinster, 6.07 and 93.8 in Munster, 49.5 in Ulster, and 5.1 and 94.8 in Connaught.

LIBERATION SOCIETY.

YOUNG MEN'S CONFERENCE AT KINGSLAND.

The seventh and last district conference of young men in co-operation with the Liberation Society was held in the lecture-room of Kingsland Chapel on Tuesday evening last. The chair was taken by Mr. JOHN TEMPLETON, who gave a brief resumé of the Young Men's Conferences held in London, and concluded by remarking that, though only ten days had elapsed since the last conference, events had ripened far beyond their sanguine expectations. The great debate on Ireland had prepared the public mind for Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, and when the *Times* declared the Irish Church to be a most audacious and iniquitous institution it was certain that the days of that Establishment were numbered. Let them give all honour to Mr. Gladstone, who, in the face of the country and of all who were in power, had been true to the dictates of conscience—all honour to John Bright, from whom Mr. Gladstone seemed to have derived his inspiration—and last, though not least, all honour to Edward Miall, who, in 1856, had grappled with this difficulty in the House of Commons, and whose statesmanlike address would form the basis of enlightened legislation on the Irish Church Establishment. (Loud cheers.) The chairman then called on the Rev. LL. D. BEVAN to deliver the introductory address. The pressure on our space precludes the possibility of giving even an epitome of this admirable paper, which was equally distinguished by the clearness of its statements, the cogency of its arguments, and its Christian charity in dealing with opponents.

The Rev. H. RISTON COOKE, in moving the first resolution, which approved the principles of the Liberation Society, and exhorted young men to lend it all their influence, noticed one of the most common arguments in favour of a Church Establishment—that it is the duty of the State to provide for the spiritual welfare of the people; and then inquired, what is the State religion of this country? Suppose he were convinced that Dissent was wrong, and that it was his duty to go over to the Church of England. To what Church should he go? To the Evangelical, Low Church of Hornsey, or to St. Matthias, of Stoke Newington, with its full-blown Ritualism and its high ecclesiasticism? Was it not a manifest absurdity to talk of the unity of the Church when such extremes as these were equally patronised and protected? The speaker then referred to the Establishment in Ireland, and declared it to be one of the most formidable obstacles to the unity and the prosperity of that distracted country. (Cheers.)

Mr. MARTIN having briefly seconded the resolution,

Mr. LAYCOCK (a Churchman) said they owed the liberties of England and the loyalty of Ireland to the influence of the Establishment. (Loud laughter.) Voluntarism would do very well in the larger towns and cities, but it was quite inadequate to the religious wants of the people in the agricultural districts.

Mr. W. GREEN contended, on the contrary, that the parochial system had proved a miserable failure; that the voluntary principle had been sufficient for the villages and for the colliery districts in the North; that the Church had not touched a tithe of the religious destitution of the poor, but had left it to the earnest labours of the Methodists and other Nonconformists; that so far from the Establishment promoting liberty and loyalty, we were spending half our time in Parliament in undoing the unjust and partial legislation of the past; and that the Church had exercised her influence for the enactment of those laws by which Dissenters had for centuries been discouraged and oppressed. (Cheers.)

Mr. WILKINSON (Churchman) insisted that the Church was right in principle, in policy, and in practice. God had established the principle, the policy had been paternal, and the practice might be judged by its fruits. The Episcopalians had built ten churches recently in Islington; and though there were abuses in the Church, that was no proof that God was not its author, any more than, because man had sinned, was that a proof that God was not his creator.

The Rev. T. AVELING thought that he could prove the negative of the previous speaker's propositions,—that the Church as by law established was unprincipled, impolitic, and impracticable; but he would confine himself to one point of Mr. Wilkinson's address. Was the Church Establishment politic in

Ireland? The Irish were an intensely loving, an intensely religious people; but the action of the Church upon the nation had wounded their susceptibilities, and brought opprobrium upon the truth itself. (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. SPENSLEY referred to an argument employed by the Dean of Westminster, to the effect that when Paul appealed to Cæsar, he acknowledged the supremacy of the State. But Paul did not appeal to Cæsar as a Christian; he appealed as a citizen. Just as if he (the speaker) were molested in the exercise of his right to preach the Gospel, he should appeal to the magistrate, not for his judgment as to the truth of his doctrine, but for the protection of the law in the enjoyment of his privileges as a citizen. (Cheers.)

Mr. ASHTON, a churchwarden, in supporting the resolution, expressed his strong conviction that it would be better for the Church, and better for the State, if they were separated; and said his minister had told him very recently that he was of the same opinion, and that he earnestly anticipated that auspicious day when this important work would be accomplished. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOHN GLOVER looked upon the Churchmen who had spoken at these conferences as representing half the people of England. These gentlemen might certainly have found much better arguments than any they had yet adduced in favour of the principle of an Establishment; but when they asked what is the ground of our objection, we reply, Taxation—patronage—disability. Had not the Church failed? Had it overtaken the population? Had it promoted peace? Had it helped the Government? Was there a question brought before Parliament, having a religious element, in which the Church did not stop the way? Were they to continue the folly of their fathers? Should they not rather, with one great voice of generosity and justice, earnestly exclaim, "Let us do unto all men as we would they should do unto us!" (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. LL. BEVAN briefly replied, and exhorted the young Churchmen present to study this great question, so that they might be prepared to take a better part in these discussions. The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings of the conference.

YOUNG MEN'S MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

On Tuesday week evening a meeting in connection with the Young Men's Association was held in the Cavendish-street Schoolroom. The chair was taken by the Rev. Dr. Parker. There were also present Mr. John Kingsley, the Rev. Lloyd Jones, Mr. Alderman Rumney, the Rev. John Rawlinson, Dr. Pankhurst, the Rev. Colin Brewster, Mr. J. H. Crossfield, Mr. George Kearley, and other gentlemen. Dr. Parker addressed the meeting at some length on the Church Establishment question, saying that—

He was thankful that the young men of Manchester were having their attention directed to what he could not but consider was one of the most important questions of the day. Great questions made great men, and when the young men of any country gave themselves to pursuits which ended only in mere personal enjoyment the civilisation of such a country must go down; but when young men gave themselves to the consideration of great problems—religious, political, or social—the civilisation of the country must go up to the highest point of refinement and strength. The more intellectual exercise required in the study of great questions was itself of the highest advantage. But when that intellectual exercise was associated, as it was in the present case, with a moral and religious aim, an immense increase of advantage was the necessary consequence. The primary question which they had to consider was, what was the church? If the church was a mere political organisation, and not a sect, the inference was irresistible; but if the church should be regarded as embodying a great spiritual idea, then another set of inferences, in some respects diametrically opposite, compelled not only a conviction of the mind but a gradual homage of the heart. They were to assert their belief in the spirituality of Jesus Christ's kingdom upon the earth.

Dr. Parker proceeded to remark on the Irish Church question. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. J. Kingsley congratulated Nonconformists on the advanced position which Mr. Gladstone had assumed on Monday night in reference to this question of the Irish Church. It appeared to him to make an end of Lord Russell's scheme for endowing all the denominations in Ireland. The speaker went on to comment on the small results achieved by the Protestant Establishment in winning over converts from Catholicism; and he referred to instances within his own knowledge, leading to the belief that the conversions sometimes boasted of were due in part to pecuniary temptations, and not wholly to religious conviction.

THE UNIVERSITY TEST BILL.

It will be seen that Mr. Coleridge's Oxford and Cambridge Universities Bill has been postponed to Wednesday, May 19th. As it stood fourth on the notices of the House of Commons for Wednesday last, three Irish bills preceding it, there was every reason to expect—and the result showed the impression to be well-founded—that it would not come on in time for a division, or even a lengthened debate. Mr. Coleridge has therefore taken a day when no such difficulty can occur to prevent a full discussion. The fact of Mr. Walpole having announced his intention of moving the rejection of the bill is an indication that it will receive the strongest possible opposition from the Tory side. We have given elsewhere a list of petitions already presented in its favour. Many more from the professors and students of Nonconformist colleges are in hand, and we are requested to

state that the presentation of them has been purposely delayed till Mr. Coleridge moves the second reading of his measure.

The petition in favour of Mr. Coleridge's bill, in course of signature at Oxford, has already received the signatures of a decided majority of those engaged as tutors or lecturers, in the education of the colleges.

The following cogent appeal has been sent from four Baptist ministers of Cambridge to the Archbishop of Canterbury:—

We have observed an address to your Grace from graduates of the University of Oxford, in reference to the bill recently introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Coleridge. As the authors of the address presume to define the relations of Nonconformists to the bill, we beg leave to inform your Grace that they had no authority to speak for us.

The address assumes that "Christian faith and Christian morals" will be banished from the Universities, or greatly diminished, if the said bill becomes law. If we believed that such consequences would ensue, we should, with the Oxford graduates, most strongly deprecate the change; but, being persuaded, for reasons given below, that directly the opposite result would follow, we beg to be heard.

From the University of Oxford Nonconformists are, and have been, practically excluded. The address of the graduates is, therefore, the language of mere theorists. At Cambridge the number of Nonconformists in the University has been steadily increasing for the last twelve years, and has comprised two senior wranglers, one second, one fifth, one seventh, two other wranglers, two first-class classics, ten senior optimes, and one senior in the natural science tripos.

The Nonconformists who have won honours, and those who have not, have been well known among us, and we do not hesitate to assert that in moral and religious excellences they have been far above the average. Had the whole University been like them, it would have presented a scene of purity and piety such as neither Oxford nor Cambridge has yet approached.

We therefore ask your Grace to promote the religious interests of the Universities by encouraging such men to enter them.

DEAN STANLEY'S ADDRESS AT SION COLLEGE.—We have received a copy of the authorised edition of the Dean of Westminster's address "On the Connection of Church and State." If our attempt to deal with Dr. Stanley's theory of a State Church is delayed for a week or two, it is partly owing to the pressure of the Irish Church question, and partly to our intention to discuss the subject in several successive articles.

Dean Green, of Natal, who has had such a long contest with Dr. Colenso, has arrived in England.

BEHIND THE TIMES.—M. Guizot read, a few evenings since, the first pages of his forthcoming work, to be entitled "Religious Meditations," in which he strongly combats the separation of Church and State.

THE DECISION IN THE ST. ALBAN'S AND EAST TEIGNMOUTH CASES will be given next Saturday in the Arches Court. We hear that the costs will be divided, and it is rumoured that a technical objection will be sustained as to the course adopted by the prosecution in at least one particular.—*John Bull*.

THE RITUAL COMMISSION.—There is every probability that if there are not two reports from the Ritual Commission, an influential minority will, at least, append a protest to some of the conclusions which are understood to be adverse to the Ritualists. At the proper time a motion to restrain defects as well as excesses of Ritual will be made. Only one witness, we hear, was examined as to altar lights, and he so completely failed to establish their legality, that the commissioners most anxious for their retention felt powerless to act. The Lectionary committee are working zealously.—*John Bull*.

BISHOP COLENZO.—A correspondent informs us that before entering the pulpit on Sunday morning the Rev. H. R. Haweis, at St. James's Chapel, Marylebone, read from the altar "A Declaration to the Primæ renouncing Christian communion with Dr. Colenso." He said he believed the document was being widely circulated. It had been forwarded him for signature. He could hardly frame his lips to pronounce such words from a Christian altar. They breathed a spirit of intolerance and persecution with which we were all familiar. It was the spirit which burned the Reformers under Mary and tortured the Catholics under Elizabeth. "What right have we," he continued, "to rise up and curse each other in this manner? I am not saying a word about Dr. Colenso's opinions; they are quite a different question. But I will show you the kind of estimation in which I hold this unchristian document, and all that are like unto it." He then tore up the declaration.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATE DEFEATED.—On Thursday evening week a public meeting of the parishioners of Camberwell was held at the Camberwell Hall to make a Church-rate for the repair of the steeple of St. Giles's Church. Mr. Churchwarden Pew presided. Messrs. Taylor and Thornhill, the other churchwardens, moved and seconded the making of a rate at 3d. in the pound to meet the estimated cost of 1,250*l.*, and hinted that they did not propose to enforce the rate, although they could not pledge their successors. Mr. Middlemas moved to add the word "voluntary" before the word "rate," and drew attention to the clause of Mr. Gladstone's bill for the abolition of Church-rates. After a two hours' discussion, in the course of which every speaker objected to a compulsory rate, the churchwardens agreed to adopt the word "voluntary," and the resolution was therefore carried, with only three

dissentients, who preferred the words "voluntary subscription" instead of "voluntary rate."

THE PROPOSED CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The Roman Catholic Bishops of Cashel and Clonfert have arrived in London, to confer with the Government concerning the proposed Roman Catholic University. On Tuesday they were received by the Earl of Mayo. Cardinal Cullen, having had his attention directed to the fact that, owing to the action of some Roman Catholic representatives, there was danger that the University charter of incorporation might not be sanctioned, has addressed more than one of the Irish members, expressing, on behalf of the Roman Catholic prelates of Ireland, "an earnest hope" that this portion of Ministerial policy would be in no measure discouraged; but that, on the contrary, every effort should be made to secure its early accomplishment. The *Morning Advertiser*, *Record*, *Rock*, and other papers most severely denounce this scheme. The last-named journal says:—

The true Conservatives of this empire, if true to their principles, cannot honestly and conscientiously give their countenance to a revolutionary measure that would sacrifice the existing Universities of Ireland, where all classes and creeds are educated in common, to a sectarian school, of one creed and of one party, and would eventually, as an inevitable result of Ultramontane principles, substitute the Papal supremacy in Ireland for the supremacy of the British Crown. If a Conservative Government can so far forget or stultify its own principles by supporting such a measure of political iniquity and party dereliction, the sooner such a Government perishes the better it will be for this country. Such a Government deserves not to live for a single day, if it can thus betray into the hands of the Papacy the most sacred of our constitutional principles.

WORKHOUSE CHAPLAINS.—The Carmarthen Board of Guardians have refused to appoint a chaplain, and invited the Dissenting ministers to visit the workhouse between them, notwithstanding the following orders from the Poor-law Board:—

Poor Law Board, Whitehall, S.W., 12th March, 1868.

Sir,—I am directed by the Poor Law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., in which you report the resignation of the Rev. D. Parry, chaplain of the workhouse of the Carmarthen Union, and the proposal of the guardians that the duties of the office shall be performed gratuitously by certain Dissenting ministers, in conjunction with the clergymen of the town. I am directed to point out to the guardians that the course which they propose to adopt is not in accordance with either the letter or the spirit of those provisions in the consolidated general order which relate to the religious instruction and consolation to be afforded to the inmates of the workhouse. That order contemplates the appointment of a responsible paid officer to impart this instruction, and the board attach very great importance to the regular discharge of the duties of chaplain by such an officer. The board desire to observe that by resorting to the voluntary and unpaid services of several ministers of different religious denominations, as proposed in the present case, the guardians fail to obtain any security for uniformity of religious instruction, and lose that due control over all the arrangements connected with the celebration of Divine service which would result from the regular performance of the duties of chaplain by a single officer, subject to the well-known responsibilities of his position. Under these circumstances the board request that the guardians will proceed, after due notice, to the appointment of a chaplain in the room of the Rev. Mr. Parry.—I am, &c.,

H. HEMINGS, Secretary.

CATHOLICISM AND STATESMEN.—The following extract of a letter which appeared in last week's *Catholic Opinion* will surprise many persons, and frighten not a few of the old class of Protestants:—"Earl Granville was President of the Council in the last Russell Ministry: Lady Georgiana Fullerton (whom to name is enough) is his lordship's sister. The Duke of Argyll was Lord Privy Seal: his Grace's mother is a Catholic. Mr. Gladstone was Chancellor of the Exchequer: he has a Catholic sister. Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary of that Ministry, has a Catholic sister-in-law, who is even a nun, and other Catholic relatives. Mr. Monsell, then Vice-President of the Board of Trade, is a convert himself. Sir Roundell Palmer has (or had) a Catholic brother. Sir Robert Collier has a Catholic aunt. I deviate a little from the line in adding that Mr. Coleridge, law officer *in petto* of the next Liberal Government, has a brother a priest and a Jesuit. So much for the Russell Ministry. Others better acquainted with family connections, would probably extend my list. We come now to the present Ministry. The Duke of Marlborough's sister-in-law, Lady Portarlington, is a Catholic. Lord Stanley's sister, Lady Emma Talbot, has a brother-in-law a priest, and several other Catholic relatives. Sir Stafford Northcote is, I believe, not distantly related to the Very Rev. President of Oscott. The Earl of Longford had a brother who died a Passionist (and, I may add, a saint), being also the brother-in-law of the present Marquis of Exeter. The Earl of Mayo's brother-in-law, the Hon. W. Wyndham, is a recent convert. The Attorney-General, not to be outdone by his old antagonist, Mr. Coleridge, has two brothers priests. I know I shall frighten Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Whalley by calling attention to these startling facts. Borrowing a few more words from Juvenal, I would say to the member for Peterborough, 'Yes, Whalley, my poor man, you may wake and find yourself a Catholic, without knowing it, against your will.'"—*Weekly Register*.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE BISHOP.—The Government of India is now placed in a very difficult relation to the Bishop of Calcutta. The Ritualistic controversy in the Rifles extended to the 25th, one man of the latter, a Highlander, having grounded his arms at the door of the Dum Dum

Church, and refused to enter. The Bishop encourages the Ritualist chaplains, the General of Division plays into his hands, and the discipline of the army is imperilled. The Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief, and their colleagues are now "sitting on" the Bishop, and all will depend on his Christian tact and good sense. The absurd order of the General is to be recalled, and soldiers are to be marched in military order to any church they may prefer. The following order will surprise many and delight more:—

Order "relative to a proposal for providing a room in the lines of European regiments in India to which the men can resort for private reading and prayer, and for holding prayer-meetings and other meetings of a similar character." Taking into consideration the difficulties and inconvenience experienced by pious and well-disposed soldiers of British regiments, owing to the want of some place of retirement for prayer and reading God's Word, and for holding prayer-meetings and other meetings of a devotional character, the Right Hon. the Governor-General in Council has determined that a room of a suitable size, with such furniture as may be deemed necessary to fit it for the purposes above mentioned, shall be considered one of the recognised requirements in the barracks of every British regiment or considerable detachment of British troops.

The order goes on to say that the room will be in a central position, but not in the barracks; that a residence will be assigned to a Scripture-reader in the married quarters, that the room will be under the "general control" of the chaplain and commanding officer, that the men will be allowed "the utmost freedom and latitude" so long as they avoid "sectarian and proselytising discussion," and that Government is assured the men will be orderly and not abuse this privilege. There are four classes who will have reason to bless Sir John Lawrence—the English soldier, the sailor, the native peasant, and the third-class railway passenger.—*Times Correspondent*.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—In reference to the alleged insincerity of Mr. Gladstone in his treatment of the Irish Church, the *Western Morning News* makes the following historical memorandum:—"When the Ministerial journals denounce Mr. Gladstone for having, as they affirm, sacrificed his convictions to his lust of office, they forget, perhaps, they have never heard of an incident in his career which casts the utmost discredit upon their accusation. This is not the first time that Mr. Gladstone has had the Irish Church question brought before him in a practical shape. Three-and-twenty years ago he was a Minister of the Crown, and had to consider it, and he then did what Mr. Disraeli has never yet done for any one of his principles, political or ecclesiastical—he resigned office. In 1845 Sir Robert Peel proposed the famous endowment to Maynooth. Mr. Gladstone was Vice-President of the Board of Trade under that Minister. The celebrated revision of the Customs tariff in 1842 was known to be his handiwork, and every one prophesied for the brilliant young official speedy advancement. With his foot on the very threshold of the Cabinet, Mr. Gladstone resigned. He disapproved of the Maynooth grant, then? Not at all; he strongly approved of it. But remembering that only five years before he had written the book above mentioned, and thinking that the world would say he had been influenced by love of place to support a measure in opposition to his convictions, he sacrificed his brilliant prospects and became a private member, in order that he might support without suspicion the measure which he had come to see was both just and necessary. And yet this is the man who is now accused of sacrificing his convictions to his love of office! And by whom is he accused? By the followers of that Minister who, having attempted to reverse free trade in 1851, accepted it in 1852; who, having in 1866 denounced the degradation of the franchise in giving it to a 7*l.* householder, in 1867 gave it unconditionally to every householder.

Religious and Denominational News.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.—We omitted to state in our report last week that Mr. Charles Walton, of East Acton, has promised 500*l.* towards the erection of the new Congregational church in this suburban district.

PAISWICK.—A recognition service was recently held in the Congregational chapel, Paiswick, Gloucestershire, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. H. Young. Amongst those present were the Revs. E. S. Heart, W. Young, B.A., Gloucester, W. Wheeler, J. H. Taylor, C. Chapman, W. Rhead, J. Rees, and other friends.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Services have recently been held at St. Andrew's Chapel, Camden-street, North Shields, in connection with the public recognition of the Rev. John Christien, the recently appointed minister of that place of worship. Amongst those present were the Revs. G. Stewart, J. H. Rutherford, T. Clifton, S. S. Hodgson, J. Elrick, W. Derwent, W. Stead, &c.

BOSTON.—The memorial-stone of a new Congregational church at Boston was last week placed in its resting-place by Mr. Benjamin Scott, Chamberlain of London. The new building will occupy the site of the former chapel in Red Lion-street, of which the Rev. J. Shaw is minister. It is adapted to hold 700 persons, and the work has been let by contract for 1,748*l.*

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—There is likely to be a divided vote for the Presidency of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference next ensuing. Three gentlemen are mentioned:—The Rev. J. Farrar, Rev. Dr. Jobson, and Rev. S. R. Hall, and the general voice

seems to be in favour of the last-named, whose keen powers of debate and manly bearing have given him a high position in the esteem of his brethren.

NEW YORK.—Rev. H. D. Northrop, so well known for his successful labours in connection with a new congregational Church in London, was installed on the evening of the 18th inst., as pastor of the West 23rd-street Presbyterian Church, New York. This church is rapidly growing, as might be expected with its working membership and its active and eloquent pastor.—*New York Independent.*

PASTORAL CALLS.—Mr. J. Constance, of the Congregational College, Bristol, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation, Southmolton, Devon.—The Rev. C. White, of Merthyr Tydfil, has accepted the pastorate of Cornwall-road Chapel, Notting-hill.—The Rev. G. Durrell, of the Baptist College, Bristol, to the church at North-row, Warminster.—The Rev. James Foster, of the Baptist College, Bristol, to the church and congregation at Milton, Oxon, to supply the pulpit for six months.

ST. JOHN'S-WOOD.—The recognition of the Rev. J. Thomas (late of Cheltenham) as pastor of the church, St. John's-wood-terrace, took place on Tuesday evening, the 10th inst. After tea, addresses were given by the Rev. J. C. Harrison, and the Rev. R. D. Wilson, of Craven Chapel. In the subsequent services the Rev. E. White, of Kentish-town, addressed the minister in words of most kindly counsel and affectionate welcome; the Rev. A. Roberts, D.D., of Carlton-hill, on heartiness in Christian work; and the Rev. G. D. McGregor, of Paddington, on Christian vitality. With a short address and prayer, the Rev. W. Scott, Abbey-road, closed the service.

FAIRFORD.—On Thursday evening, March 19, a public meeting was held in Fairfield Chapel, Gloucestershire, in connection with the recognition of the Rev. T. Page as pastor of the church and congregation. After the reading of suitable portions of Scripture, and prayer by the Revs. F. Smith and H. Ashbury, and a short statement made by the pastor as to the reasons which had induced him to accept the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation, addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. Frize, G. Smith, H. Ashbury, J. E. Judson, and F. Smith.

GLASGOW.—CALEDONIAN AND KENT-ROAD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.—On Sunday last anniversary services were held in these churches, the Rev. Drs. King and Edmond, of London, officiating forenoon and evening—the former in Caledonian-road Church (Rev. Dr. R. T. Jeffrey's), and the latter in Kent-road Church (Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown's), the pastors of the two congregations occupying their own pulpits in the afternoon. The services were attended by crowded audiences, and the collections for the day amounted—in Dr. Jeffrey's church to 422l. 18s. 2d., and in Dr. Brown's to 321l. 11s. 11d.

IPSWICH.—The annual meeting of the congregation connected with Turret-green Chapel, was held on Thursday, the 19th. From the report read by the treasurer, Mr. W. Bayley, it appeared that for the various objects, religious and benevolent, in connection with that place of worship some 800l. had been subscribed. It also stated that during the previous year a larger sum had been paid towards the first instalment of the building fund, the total sum of 910l. 5s. had been received by him. The Rev. M. Morris presided over the meeting after tea, at which Messrs. F. Ridley, Roche, J. R. Ridley, W. Piper, Budden, Ashplant, Boyce, Smith, and S. Thompson gave addresses or took a part, referring to the different operations in the preaching-stations, schools, improvement societies, &c., connected with the congregation, and special reference was made to the success attending the special Sunday evening services.

EASTBOURNE.—On Thursday, the 19th March, a social tea-meeting took place in the schoolroom of the Congregational church in this town. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. R. Hamilton, of Brighton, and during the evening addresses were delivered by the Wesleyan minister and many other friends of various denominations. Mr. Applegate, on behalf of the church and congregation, presented to the Rev. A. Foyster a purse of gold, containing 36l., accompanied by an address, referring with regret to his removal from the town. A testimonial presented by the friends at Friday-street was also exhibited. During Mr. Foyster's ministry at Eastbourne the entire cost of the chapel and schoolroom (more than 2,500l.) has been collected, leaving only a debt incurred by the purchase of the ground and the building of the house. The entire expenditure upon the village chapel at Friday-street was provided for by the day of opening. Mr. Foyster has removed to Brighton.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.—MEETING IN A WORKHOUSE.—A meeting of an unusual character took place in Bethnal-green Workhouse, near Victoria Park, on Friday last, the 20th inst., under the auspices of the above society, and with the full sanction of the Board of Guardians and chaplain. The members of this evangelistic association have under visitation for religious instruction and consolation the whole of the inmates of the house, which they attend every Sabbath day, their labours being much appreciated by the poor people as well as by the authorities. It was thought that the bond of union would be strengthened by holding a meeting in the large hall in the house, and giving the poor people a treat at least once a year. Arrangements were accordingly made and the meeting held. The number of inmates for the day was 1,254, and to each of these half a pound of good cake with oranges were supplied. About half of this number being confined to the sick wards, were unable to attend the meeting, and were supplied during the afternoon in their re-

spective wards. At seven o'clock the meeting was opened with singing and prayer by the chaplain. F. A. Bevan, Esq., banker, occupied the chair, and gave an interesting and kindly opening address. Addresses were then delivered by Judge Payne, T. B. Smithies, Esq., and the Revs. W. Tyler, J. W. Reynolds, of St. Stephen's, Spitalfields, E. A. Telfer (Wesleyan), Mr. G. Kirkham, of the Open-air Mission, and others. An efficient choir sang several pieces at intervals during the evening. A cordial vote of thanks were passed to the chairman and board of guardians. Mr. Ward, on behalf of the guardians, responded, and said that, instead of their receiving thanks for permitting the meeting to be held, his brother guardians desired him to thank those gentlemen who took the trouble to visit the house every week for the benefit of the poor people, and who rendered such efficient help to the good chaplain in his efforts to comfort the poor people whose welfare they all desired. At the close the poor people as they retired received each half a pound of cake, an orange, and, through the kindness of Mr. Smithies and Dr. Davis (of the Tract Society), each a small book or publication. The hall was crowded to excess, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The gallery was occupied by a number of visitors and choir. The poor people were most grateful for the kindness shown them. The expense was borne by the chairman and several other friends present.

BREAKFAST TO DRS. KING AND EDMOND.—These eminent ministers of the United Presbyterian Church in London were entertained at a public breakfast in Glasgow on the 23rd, and nearly one hundred gentlemen, including clergymen and others connected with the United Presbyterian Church, were present on the occasion. David Anderson, Esq., presided on the occasion. Dr. Edie said it was superfluous to introduce their London friends to a Glasgow meeting; but he thought that, seeing the great work on which they were engaged in London, it was but right they should be honoured when in the city of their former labours. Dr. King then addressed the meeting. He felt gratified at the reception he and his friend Dr. Edmond had met with, which showed that, although absent, they had not been forgotten. It showed that there was an international feeling between the Churches. He had all along had an affection for an imperial Church, and he still had; but he did not say in what way that should be accomplished, provided it produced a vigorous co-agency among them. This was the more required, from the numbers of the youth of Scotland who were resident in London. In regard to national matters this was a United Kingdom, and they should also be a United Church. England was a great mission-field, and why should Presbyterians not take part in the work? The great stumbling-block was endowments. Where none were, as in our colonies and America, there were no obstacles to union. It was said the Church of Scotland would be reformed by the abolition of patronage; but if that were abolished, so would the endowment. Dr. Edmond expressed his pleasure at being present, and intimated his concurrence with Dr. King as to union—the whole Presbyterians should be united. The Irish ecclesiastical question was the topic of the day. One party thought all the churches should be endowed, but that subject was now dead and buried. It was struck down by a sturdy blow from Bright, and killed by the sharp lance of Gladstone. The issue now was that the Irish Church must be disestablished. Such was the dictum of the foremost of our statesmen, and although there might be some delay the verdict must be applied. He then alluded to Mr. Gladstone's proposed resolutions, and said the field would soon be in the hands of Voluntarism. He approved of the reservation of life interests. In regard to the application of the revenues, they belonged to the nation, and should be applied for the benefit of the nation as a whole. If the Irish Church was disestablished, what would be the position of those of England and Scotland? They would not be so secure as they are. That of England was tending towards Roman Catholicism; in Italy the cry was a free Church in a free State. He interpreted the Book of Revelation to mean by the cities of nations civil establishments of religion, and soon the cry would be raised "Babylon has fallen." With them too, he hoped, would fall others which had been the curse of the earth—military establishments. It was a burning shame that a country could not be governed except by bayonets, batons, and revolvers. Put religious establishments on the shelf, and the others would soon pass away.

CHRISTIAN MISSION, CROSS-STREET CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.—The annual meeting of the above society was held on Wednesday evening, 18th inst. The Rev. C. Bailhache presided. Mr. Bayne, the secretary, read the report, from which it appeared that twenty-two visitors are regularly engaged in house-to-house visitation; in fifteen districts the number of families receiving attention being about four hundred. Some of the districts were described as being exceedingly poor, and many of the inhabitants of a very low order, but the visitors found little difficulty in gaining access to them, and instances of rudeness or of rebuff seldom occurred. Both the spiritual and the material welfare of the people were sought to be promoted, the latter chiefly through the agency of affiliated auxiliaries. Spiritual results would not be tabulated, but some encouraging cases had from time to time come under the notice of visitors, and many had been induced to attend public worship. A great deal of most seasonable relief had been afforded during the winter by an extensive distribution of soup and coal tickets, a considerable sum

having been subscribed for that purpose. The young ladies' auxiliary, conducted by Mrs. Bailhache, and formed for the purpose of encouraging among the poor "habits of prudence, economy, and self-respect," had made and supplied the women during the year with a large number of garments under cost price, for which payments had been received in small weekly instalments, and in extreme cases they had been bestowed gratuitously. The mothers' meeting, held every Monday, had increased in attendance during the year, from seventy to one hundred and ninety. The account of this auxiliary, furnished by Mrs. Henry, was full of interesting particulars, and presented abundant evidence of the spiritual and social advantages resulting to the poor women who attended. During the last two months a series of entertainments, consisting of music and readings, had been given in the schoolroom under careful management, and these had been so largely attended that the committee felt encouraged to continue the experiment another winter. Besides considerable sums raised and expended by each of the auxiliaries, it was stated by Mr. Templeton, the treasurer, that for the specially spiritual work of the mission there had been contributed during the year the sum of 21l. 13s. 8d., and the disbursements amounted to 20l. 1s. 8d. Mr. Orsman, of the Golden-lane mission, moved the adoption of the report in a telling and spirited address, and was followed by Mr. Robson, who dwelt with much earnestness on the spiritual aspects of the work. The motion having been agreed to, the chairman introduced Mr. Charles Miall, who expressed his gratification at being in the midst of a truly working church, one of those roots of moral and religious influence that bound together the substratum of society in London. He mentioned various facts and peculiarities which made the metropolis the most perplexing spiritual problem of the day,—such as the absence of proper local government; of social cohesion; the migratory character of the population; the flying of the well-to-do classes from the centre to the circumference, and from east to west, thus draining away the Christian vitality of districts most needing it; the slippered indolence of suburban life; and the increase of the population beyond religious agencies of all kinds. The speaker referred to the fact that voluntary personal service in evangelistic work in London seemed to be falling off—it certainly was quite unequal to the demand—and volunteer agency only, not money, was required to bring all the poor children into ragged-schools. Reference was also made to the greatness of the missionary work now being carried on in various parts of London by good men and by means of simple machinery such as the mission they were conducting, to its palpable results in civilising the wretched denizens of places like Spitalfields and St. Giles's, and its success in tramps' kitchens and the back slums of London. Such things proved that Christian love and zeal could solve the hardest problems, and such work had a salutary reflex influence by infusing fresh vitality into the churches which carried it on. Mr. Miall concluded by appealing to the responsibilities of his hearers, and by urging a faithful continuance in their self-denying labours. The Rev. T. Goadby, B.A., of Commercial-road, and the Rev. J. Clarke, of City-road, having addressed the meeting, the chairman spoke a few words of encouragement, and the proceedings closed with prayer.

Correspondence.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of this morning you mention the names of three gentlemen in the first class of the Classical Tripos, as belonging to Dissenting families; but you have omitted mine. I am a Nonconformist alike by descent on both sides, by education, and by my own independent convictions; and am so precluded from taking a Fellowship, which would otherwise certainly be awarded to one in my position.

I am the more anxious that your omission should be corrected, as I am (to the best of my knowledge) the first Nonconformist who has taken high honours in classics: the many distinctions previously gained here by Dissenters have been won by mathematics, with the exception of honours gained in moral or natural sciences, which do not as a rule bring with them the offer of a Fellowship. I do not write this letter with a view to publication, but that you may be put into possession of fuller information, which you may use as you think fit.

I remain, yours faithfully,

AUGUSTUS S. WILKINS, B.A.

Scholar of St. John's College, University Members' Prizeman for Latin Prose, and President of the Cambridge Union Society—Fifth Class—1868.

March 21.

BLACKADER'S "ENGLISH BIBLE."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In your valuable and interesting review of my attempt to make the most of the Authorised Version, you raise a question well deserving of attention, and one which I should be glad if you would for a short time grant a part of your space for discussion by your readers.

You advise revising the writings comprising the sacred

volume in detail, on the general ground of the life and labours of one man being inadequate to the task of dealing with such a "library" of books. But the book has come down to us as one book, has been for centuries in familiar use as one book, and is even to those who recognise its historical character one book also.

It is a fair subject for difference of opinion, the best mode of treating the book, that is, the best mode of presenting it for the study and perusal of our fellow-countryman, how it can be offered to the public with all the aids that printing and arrangement can give.

"In an age," says a writer in the *Christian Remembrancer*, "when almost every author who flourished during the reigns of Elizabeth and the Stuarts is deemed worthy of being presented to us in a new edition with a critically revised text, it is very strange that the like care has not yet been bestowed on a work which, even if it were not the sole inspired record of Divine truth, is universally regarded as the noblest monument of our native language and literature."

Such an edition I have made some little progress in preparing. It will include a complete comparison with the two most important versions, the Septuagint and the Vulgate, a revision of the italics of our Authorised Version, a uniform spelling of names, and many other improvements, and accompanied by a volume of notes.

For this new edition of my work I hope that my present edition will pave the way.

I shall meet what is really your strongest argument, of one man attempting too much, by asking the assistance of every Biblical student competent and willing to aid in the undertaking, and then have the whole revised, and perhaps re-revised, before putting to press, by persons in whose judgment the public may justly place confidence.

As your opinion carries weight with a large and intelligent section of our fellow-citizens, and may, unaccompanied by any protest, hinder the cause you have yourself at heart, I ask that you permit this letter to appear in your next number. It may elicit the opinion of some who have given some thought to the subject, and issue in some definite result of agreement as to the best mode of treating the sacred volume.

I am, Sir,
THE EDITOR OF "BLACKADER'S
ENGLISH BIBLE."

36, Trinity-square, S.E., March 25, 1868.

FREE-CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—We, Nonconformists, have had a bad time of it for more than two hundred years. At first we were burnt to ashes at the stake. Next, we were branded, fined, and imprisoned, and now we are laughed at and ridiculed. Some will consider that ridicule and scorn are mildness itself, compared with imprisonment and the stake, and yet how many people there are in the world, who would seek "the bubble reputation, even at the cannon's mouth," but dare not stand the gibing taunts of a worldly companion. Every year we lose a number of our young people on this account, whose principles are not strong enough to bear the slights which the miserable sectarianism of England heaps upon those who dare to be unfashionable and claim to think for themselves. We cannot but pity their want of manliness and courage; nevertheless our churches are made stronger by their departure, and we can only regret that in joining the world they have chosen the tinsel for the gold, the piece of glass for the precious diamond, and the bit of paste for the pearl of great price.

As long as we built our churches like barns, mills, town-halls, and theatres, so long, very little was said in disparagement of our architecture; but now that we have commenced to improve and erect some really good buildings, certain writers can hardly find words sufficiently strong enough to denounce our sanctuaries. A recent writer in the *Building News* is highly incensed against us for three things. First, because we have dared to call some of our places of worship churches. Secondly, we have built in the pointed style of architecture; and lastly, because we have had the audacity to erect towers and spires. The writer having vented his scorn and indignation at our presumption, attempts most elaborately to prove that the Gothic style is totally unsuitable for our "meeting-houses."

Now, I am prepared to maintain, and like a knight of old, to maintain it against all comers, that the Gothic pointed style is perfectly adapted for our churches, and in the hands of an architect who really understands his work and has studied the question, there can be little or no difficulty in erecting a Gothic church thoroughly suitable for Congregational worship. If we were obliged to build with an open roof, with great heavy stone pillars dividing the nave from the aisles, and with deep transepts, I might think differently, but we are obliged to do nothing of the kind. If a free church architect knows what he is about, he will insert an underdrawn roof, "wagon-headed," or otherwise, which will prevent draughts of cold air in winter and warm air in summer, he will place light, graceful iron pillars between the nave and aisles, and raise the side walls high enough to allow narrow side galleries, about eight feet from the floor; and if he designs transepts at all, takes care that they are but shallow. Such a church, erected with ordinary care, and supplied with Haden's warming apparatus, will be as comfortable, as free from draughts, and as easy to hear and preach in, as any building in another style.

One word here in answer to those who repeat the parrot-like expression that in such an erection we are "spicing the Church." By such words the speaker displays either great ignorance, great insolence, or

palpable falsehood. "Ignorance," because he ought to know that it was our "pious ancestors" who built York, Lincoln, Salisbury, and Westminster. "Insolence," because it is insolence for any one to say to an Englishman, "You shall not build your house of prayer in such and such a style"—whether it be Gothic, classic, Byzantine, or Moorish. And "falsehood," because the Established Church was founded by Henry VIII., hundreds of years after the Pointed style was introduced into England.

Our detractors, taking the "Congregational Year-Book" for their guide, and picking out one or two of the "monstrosities" (which are ugly enough to make us wonder that any architect worthy of the name could design such buildings), and overlooking the superior churches, and some of the very best which do not appear in the "Year Book," fall foul of the whole, and with the greatest coolness consign all our churches to the same level of inferiority.

But I would ask any candid reader who is at all acquainted with our new churches whether we are really in truth deteriorating? I would ask whether our new churches at Penrith, Kirkby Stephen, Stockport, Tottington, Halifax, Huddersfield, Headingley-hill, Leeds, Pudsey, Harrogate, Knaresboro, Scarborough, St. Ives, Hunts, Colchester, Lower-Clapton, Clapham, Sevenoaks, Kent, St. Leonards, and numerous others, are not an immense improvement upon the "old box style," which a child with a number of wooden bricks could easily design? And if these are an improvement I can safely guarantee that the churches now building at Halifax, Ilkley, Whitby, and Huntingdon, will be much nearer perfection than any which we have yet built.

Apologising for occupying so much of your valuable space, and trusting that the importance of the subject may be a sufficient plea for the length of my letter,
I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
J. A. CLAPHAM.

Bradford, March 13, 1868.

THE CONFERENCES OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Wherever your paper is read or your influence recognised, it is admitted that fair discussion is certain to be allowed, and that even your opponents will receive, amidst polemical strife, courtesy and consideration.

I am sure, therefore, you will deplore with me that these sound rules and proofs of good breeding have been forgotten at the Kingsland conference to which young men were invited. I attended as a Nonconformist, trusting to find my principles fairly represented as well as honourably advocated. I expected, when by prayer the spirit of "truth, not victory" was evoked, when amidst the strife it was trusted "Christian charity and courtesy" would not be absent from the discussion, that we should have a creditable display of kindness, of mutual regard, and no ebullitions of bad feeling or vulgar taste.

You will be sorry to know that one "reverend" gentleman indulged in broad, coarse, and derisive laughter from the platform at the stammering, although earnest, utterings of a young Churchman; another supporter of "Liberation" thought it needful to whistle long and loudly,—he may best know his accomplishment by the title of "cat-call"; and a third supporter of the Society in a very blatant style described himself as "nauseated" by his opponents, and "disgusted" by their want of arguments. I am careful not to overrate these unseemly exhibitions, which are at all times subversive of those feelings which should prevail among gentlemen, destructive to the progress of true discussion, and absolutely calculated to damage a good cause by retarding, not advancing truth.

If I understand anything as to the ends and objects of "conferences"—which I take it were well illustrated at St. John's College—they cannot be advanced by one-sided, elaborated essays, absorbing three-fourths of the time of sitting; they certainly will not be promoted by all the talking being devoted to petty carplings at opponents, by displays of superiority in wisdom, or debate, and in facility of repartee; least of all will truth be diffused by a steady determination to concede nothing in argument, to believe only one side to be correct, and "our party" to be alone honest, pure, sincere, and disinterested.

Too much of this style of proceeding was manifested at Kingsland, and while I might then and do now regret that Church of England principles and practice were not better represented, I can honour the brave young men who maintained their ground and proclaimed their opinions. On the other hand, I deplore that Nonconformity found no "young men" whatever to come forward in its defence, and that it may be truly said "professional"—not "ministerial"—advocacy overstepped its limits, and that some who "wear the cloth" thought it becoming to assert a superiority neither modest, truthful, nor Christian-like.

I am, your obedient servant,
A THOROUGH DISSENTER.

THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE PROCLAIMED BY CHURCHMEN.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR,—With the opening year Mr. A. Elliot, of Edinburgh, published a small account-book, "The Lord's Cash-Book for 1868; Designed to Aid Professing Christians in keeping Faith with God." The cover announced five tracts on Christian finance. One of these, "The Weekly Offering, from an Episcopalian Point of View," after treating of ancient and modern church financial measures, asks, "Endowments on a sufficient scale being impossible, and pew-rents being out of the question, what else have we? At the risk of startling some, the truth must be broadly stated, that—as to the future—it is on the voluntary principle that we must rely for the means of doing the needful work among the people of England. We will not here slide into the old controversy. It is not necessary even to glance at the arguments on either side, so fiercely maintained in the early part of the present reign. The battle was begun by Dissent with the view of discrediting the principle of an Established Church. Churchmen replied by discrediting voluntarism entirely—as if endowments themselves had not been voluntarily made. Both sides were at fault. Neither of them brought forward the weekly offering, as the ancient principle of finance. Neither

of them saw the exact truth. The recognition of the weekly offering, as a principle of Church polity, would have wound up the whole strife. Have we not here the permanent rule of Church finance—obligatory for all time—suited to all conditions—and equal to all necessities?"

Referring to this tract, a gentleman who has done much to promote Christian liberality both by his purse and his pen, writes, "I quite think with you that it is a remarkable sign of the times, and shows how Episcopalianism are becoming enlightened on the subject of voluntarism, and that ere long they will have to trust entirely to it."

Already, by far the grandest results of the weekly offering are realised in Episcopalian churches; such results indeed as to indicate, that no fear of disestablishment need trouble earnest and efficient ministers in their communion.

The following letter from a mechanic presents a fine example for young men, just starting in life: "With great pleasure I bear my humble testimony to the value of your Scriptural plan of weekly storing. I was induced to try it through reading some of your letters in the *Christian World*, particularly one in the number bearing date Oct. 25th, 1867. From that time I have regularly and cheerfully consecrated a tithe of my week's wages for the Lord's work. Wishing you every success, and promising to do all I can in the same good cause," &c., &c.

A devoted conductor of discussion meetings between Christians and sceptics lately informed me, that the necessary expenses have hitherto been met by the offerings of the disputants.

Dear Sir, yours truly,
HACKNEY. JOHN ROSS.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Friday, the Duke of RICHMOND explained at length the provisions of his Railway Regulation Bill, showing the protection it would give, not alone to shareholders, but to passengers and the general public who sent merchandise by rail. In the discussion which followed, Lord REDESDALE and Lord GREY took part, both urging the great necessity that existed for an increased supervision by law of what was termed railway finance. Lord GREY thought it was necessary to protect the public against the railways and the railways against the public, and this result was mainly due to the want of prudence and want of foresight of Parliamentary legislation. In his opinion no real railway reform would be complete till a strongly constituted tribunal was formed to which all such questions could be referred. The bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned at five minutes past seven.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

On Monday, the LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the Bankruptcy Bills, three in number. In doing so, he said it would not be necessary to go into a history of Bankruptcy law, though he might point out that the subject had been almost incessantly under the attention of the Legislature, and there had been bills, and royal commissions, and select committees almost continually directed to the improvement of these laws relating to debtors. After enumerating the varied, and, in some cases, the conflicting nature of these enactments, the Lord Chancellor went on to say that he proposed in one of his bills that no committal should be made in any County Court except by the judge himself, and then only in open court, and that every County Court should make an annual return to Parliament of the number of persons so committed. Individually he would be glad to see imprisonment for debt abolished, but at present it would be difficult to abolish it all at once, though he thought the course he recommended would lead to a reduction of the hardship. His Lordship then went on to point out the provisions of his bill as regarded persons made bankrupt on their own petition, and the checks which he proposed to impose on this increasing practice, and also the grounds on which he would give the court the right to suspend the order of discharge in certain cases. He proposed no new courts nor new judges; but on the contrary, that the district courts should be absorbed and closed as each commissioner died.

Lord WESTBURY, like the LORD CHANCELLOR, dwelt most strongly upon the evils and inconsistencies of the present law, and pointed out the frauds which were almost openly committed under it. If a really competent tribunal was erected under the new Acts, the frauds and plunder now complained of would be prevented, and confidence in the administration of bankruptcy would be restored, for creditors would feel some assurance of receiving what an estate was capable of producing without being subject to the present enormous deductions.

Lord CHELMSFORD, after coinciding with the previous speakers as to the great difficulties which lay in the way of satisfactory legislation on this subject, gave a general support to the principles of the bills, and agreed, as had been suggested, that they should be referred to a select committee.

Lord ROMILLY thought the bill seemed to go in the right direction, but did so very timidly. He agreed in all the condemnations that had been passed on the present state of the law, but was still not at all sanguine about the success of this bill, and could not help thinking that the Lord Chancellor was right when he said his bill would probably not be found quite satisfactory. If the bill came before the House from a select committee, he would propose several amendments in it which, in his opinion, were required to place the measure on a proper basis.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply, very briefly defended the principal clauses of the bill, and said that the chief evils of the existing system of bankruptcy were too much official interference and too great expense. In that sentence all the defects of the law of bankruptcy were comprised, and the best way was to make the creditors themselves the masters of the estate, through the intervention of a trustee appointed by themselves.

The bills were then read a second time, and their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes to eight o'clock.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

On Tuesday the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, in calling attention to the state of elementary education in England, entered into a full statement of the whole subject. They were not called on to supplant a system, but to survey what had been done already, and to found a national system on what had been hitherto accomplished, having regard to those great denominational principles which characterised the voluntary efforts of those interested in the subject. After quoting statistics to show the proportion of children to population that attended schools, and pointing out that English deficiencies in the matter of education were not so enormous as it had been sought to make out, he went on to refer at length to extracts on the subject from returns, not only from Church of England, but from undenominational and Nonconformist sources. He was not in favour of a system of public rating for the maintenance of schools—first, because it would naturally relax the voluntary efforts that were being made, and, next, because under a system of rating a purely secular education would become almost necessary, for which he thought the country was not prepared, any more than it was for a scheme of compulsory rating. After referring to similar topics, and showing the immense extent and importance of the subject, the Duke of Marlborough went on to say that it was the intention of the Government to propose that Parliament should empower her Majesty to appoint a Secretary of State to have the whole range of educational matters under his consideration and control. Other clauses would also be incorporated in the Act of Parliament which would enable many Nonconformist schools to avail themselves of the Government aid. They proposed, also, to embody in the bill the management clauses which relate to inspection of schools of all denominations as they were now used by the various religious bodies. The number of schools brought under inspection by that alteration would be very great. An improvement would also be effected with regard to schools in the poorer districts. They did not propose to abandon the system of certificates, but to modify it in such a way as they thought would greatly improve it, and they also intended to make some addition to the building grant. After referring to the Conscience Clause which they proposed to introduce, and which would lay down the great principle of liberty of teaching, the noble Duke said they did not pretend that this was a complete measure, but the Government believed that they would by it lay a firm foundation for a great national system of education.

Lord GRANVILLE thought it would be more convenient to discuss the details of the bill on its second reading, but at the same he thanked the Duke of Marlborough for having introduced it in that House. He certainly was not disposed to treat the bill in a party spirit, but unless great alterations were made in it he thought the country would believe that the Government had so treated it. He congratulated the Duke on the easy life he would lead when this department was taken from him, but did not think the House of Commons would be inclined to create a sixth Secretary of State, with additional officers and additional salaries, whose only duties at present would be to turn Minutes into Acts.

Lord RUSSELL, while expressing a general approval of the bill, regretted that such important towns as Leeds, Manchester, &c., had not the power to rate themselves. After a few words from Lord CORK and Lord HARROWBY, mostly in favour of some clauses in the bill, and a warm expression of approval from the Bishop of LONDON of the way the Duke of Marlborough had dealt with the Conscience Clause, the bill was read a first time.

On the motion of Lord DEVON, the Poor Relief Bill was read a second time, and their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes past eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Friday Mr. GLADSTONE (amid cheering from the Opposition) gave notice of his intention to submit a motion on the Irish Church, and he promised to state the precise terms—which from the importance of the subject would require careful consideration—on Monday.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE (in answer to Mr. Crawford) stated that he had just received a telegraphic summary of Mr. Massey's Indian Budget, which showed a flourishing state of revenue with a surplus, and no necessity for new taxes.

THE BASUTO COUNTRY.

In reply to Mr. Miller, Mr. ADDERLEY stated that the Government had certainly not extended British protection over the Basuto country, but had authorised the Governor of the Cape to negotiate for the annexation of that country to Natal, provided both Basuto and Natal consented to the annexation. It was hoped that by the annexation the state of things which had been the source of perpetual wars on the boundary would cease.

PARTY PROCESSIONS ACT.

In reply to Sir C. LANTON, Lord MAYO said it is not the intention of the Government to propose during the present session a repeal of the Party Processions Act. It is true some doubt has existed as to the exact meaning of the Act; but those doubts have been removed by the clear and authoritative interpretation given by Mr. Justice Fitzgerald. The only uncertainty on the subject which can arise in future will be from juries taking different views of what is calculated to provoke animosity. That will bear wide interpretation, and we intend to consider whether it will be practicable to introduce an amendment somewhat narrowing the point.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

In reply to Mr. VERNER, Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH said the arrangement of the Australian mails referred to, by which the outgoing mail leaves the day before the arrival of the incoming, has reference only to Southampton; whereas an interval of five days is allowed for answering letters *via* Marseilles, the additional postage being only 4d. The change has been made after full consideration, and cannot be altered without great additional expense.

THE LAW OF NATURALISATION.

On the motion of going into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. E. FORSTER called attention to the inconveniences of the law regulating the allegiance of emigrants, laying particular stress on the complications which this conflict of allegiance might produce in our relations with the United States, where there are more than two million British born subjects. He pointed out that we derived no advantage from the doctrine of perpetual allegiance, on which we and the United States alone insisted, and recommended that we should come to some arrangement with foreign countries—particularly with the United States—for giving to emigrants on certain conditions, the right of expatriation, and also of what he called "repatriation"—that is, of resuming their original allegiance. For this purpose he recommended that we and the United States should appoint a joint Commission.

Sir R. P. COLLIER supported Mr. Forster's view of the inexpediency of our doctrine of inalienable allegiance, and argued that when a man had resided a certain time in a foreign country, and had given unmistakable signs of his intention to settle there, he should be no longer considered a British subject, though if he returned and lived here he might resume his privileges of citizenship on certain conditions.

Lord STANLEY expressed his general concurrence in the tendency of Mr. Forster's views, and was of opinion that the doctrine of indefeasible allegiance, held alike by ourselves and the United States, was indefensible in theory and inapplicable in practice. He pointed out that the right of expatriation had been much overvalued on the other side of the Atlantic, and he stated that our Minister at Washington had been instructed to express our entire willingness to take the subject into consideration, and to meet the United States half-way. The political difficulties were very small, but the legal difficulties were considerable, particularly in regard to "repatriation," and before any arrangement could be made an inquiry by competent legal authorities would be necessary. But whether that inquiry should be national or international he could not at present say.

Mr. BUXTON advocated the establishment of periodical international congresses for the settlement of these points.

Sir R. PALMER corrected some inaccurate views held of the statutes on this point, and laid it down that their effect on the children and grandchildren of British subjects residing abroad was merely for beneficial purposes, and that they imposed no burdens, obligations, or responsibilities on them inconsistent with the general principles of international law. He pointed out that all persons, whether natural, naturalised subjects, or aliens, were amenable to the laws of the country in which they happened to reside, and that the Government might disregard altogether their foreign allegiance. He denied that there was so much difference between our law and that of foreign countries as was represented. In no country was the principle recognised that a man could of his own will divest himself of the obligations incident to his original allegiance.

After some further discussion on the subject, the question of fixed postal subsidies was raised by Mr. BAXTER, who moved a resolution condemnatory of the practice which was eventually withdrawn. Mr. GORST also called attention to a Ceylon grievance.

OUR DOCKYARDS.

The next subject discussed was the redundancy of our dockyard accommodation, on a motion by Mr. GRAVES, affirming the expediency of diminishing the number of dockyards. He pointed particularly to Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, and Pembroke as being unnecessary, and supporting his contention by numerous statistics. He argued that they cost far more than the value of the work they turned out. The cost of managing these four yards was not less than 124,000*l.* annually, they required a large amount of dockyard craft, and absorbed much surplus and unproductive stock and stores. On an average the work done cost about 40*l.* per ton, while it could be done in private yards at 25*l.* On the whole he calculated that by closing these four yards 250,000*l.* a year might be saved without injuring the efficiency of the navy; for Chatham, Devonport, Portsmouth, Portland, and Cork would amply suffice for all our exigencies. As to the mode of disposing of them, estimating their value at 3,000,000*l.*, he would sell them if a good price could be got, and if not, he would close them, and thus save the expenses

of their staff, though Deptford, he allowed, might be turned to use as a victualling yard.

Mr. CORRY agreed that it would be advisable to abolish the river yards when the extensions at Chatham were completed. Pembroke, however, was most useful for building purposes, and Sheerness in the event of a war in the North Sea would be an invaluable station. Deptford might be advantageously used for victualling purposes, and Woolwich might be got rid of altogether. The expediency of dispensing with Deptford had already been mooted, but it had been reported that it was advisable first to use up the considerable stock of timber there. Mr. Corry pointed out some errors into which Mr. Graves had fallen about the cost of the dockyards, and defended generally their efficiency and utility.

After some further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Sir M. BEACH having given explanations as to the share of the Poor-law Board in the recent appointment of the master of Lambeth Workhouse,

The House went into Committee of Supply, and a vote of 4,000,300*l.* on account of the Army Estimates was agreed to.

COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Sir R. PALMER moved the following clause:—"Line 17, after 'rates,' insert 'and payment of such rates may be enforced in the same manner as if this Act had not passed, and the same shall not be deemed to be Church-rates within the meaning of this Act.'"

The clause was agreed to.

Mr. HARCASTLE moved the following amendments, in Clause C, line one, leave out after "shall" to end of line four, and insert "have been paid on behalf of the occupier thereof the last preceding rate which shall have been made in respect of such land under this Act shall be entitled." At the end of clause, add, "provided always that no such payment shall be made by the owner without consent of the occupiers, until one month after such rates shall have been agreed upon." The amendments were agreed to.

Sir R. PALMER moved that the bill be reprinted as amended, and be ordered to be reported.

The motion was agreed to, the remaining orders of the day were disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past twelve.

The Public Schools Bill was referred to a select committee.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

On Monday Mr. GLADSTONE, who was received with Opposition cheers, gave notice of the following three resolutions, which he proposed to move in committee of the whole House:—

1. That in the opinion of this House it is necessary that the Established Church of Ireland should cease to exist as an Establishment—(Opposition cheers)—due regard being had to all personal interests and to all individual rights of property. (Ironical Ministerial cheers and laughter.)

2. That, subject to the foregoing considerations, it is expedient to prevent the creation of new personal interests by the exercise of any public patronage—(cheers)—and to confine the operations of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of Ireland to objects of immediate necessity or involving individual rights, pending the final decision of Parliament.

3. That a humble address be presented to her Majesty humbly to pray that, with a view to the purposes aforesaid, her Majesty would be graciously pleased to place at the disposal of Parliament her interest in the temporalities of the archbishops, bishops, and other ecclesiastical dignities and benefices in Ireland, and in the custody thereof. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. DISRAELI (who, like Mr. Gladstone, was loudly cheered by his followers), replying to an appeal from Mr. Gladstone to fix a day, offered him Monday next, but stipulated that the House should that night vote the number of men for the army, and that he should be allowed at once to appoint the Irish Boundary Commission. The first was needed for passing the Mutiny Bill before the adjournment for the Easter holidays, which he fixed for Friday next, if the debate had then concluded; and the second condition was absolutely necessary to put matters in train for the dissolution early next spring, which the Government had all along contemplated.

Mr. GLADSTONE intimated his satisfaction with this arrangement.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House then went at once into Committee of Supply, and

Sir J. PAKINGTON explained the Army Estimates, correcting at the outset the general misapprehension that the army was this year to cost 15,425,000*l.*, and showing that, by repayments and charges for other services which ought not fairly to be included in the Army Estimates, its cost was reduced to considerably under 14,000,000*l.*, practically no increase on last year's estimate. His sincere desire was to reduce the expense of the army within the narrowest possible limits, and he explained that whatever increase there was arose chiefly under the items of additions to the Volunteer capitation grant, in the numbers of the militia, and in the survey expenditure. In the number of men there was a slight decrease—from 137,245 to 136,650, and there were slight increases in the clothing and barrack votes. On the hospital vote there was also an apparent increase of about 105,000*l.*, caused by the transfer of the medical officers from one vote to another. Sir John next explained his reasons for not agreeing entirely in

the report of the committee on retirement in the Artillery and Engineers, and he congratulated General Peel on the unqualified success of the change he had made in the recruiting system, which was shown by the large number of re-engagements, the unusually small discrepancy between the actual establishment and the numbers voted, and the improvement in the class of recruits. He stated, too, his intention of carrying out some of the recommendations of the Recruiting Commission as to military schools. Passing to the reserve forces, Sir John stated that in the Militia vote there was an increase of a little over 81,000*l.*, caused by an increase in the number of men and by the allowance of lodging money to the quartermasters. In the volunteer vote there was also an increase of 24,150*l.*, the capitation grant having risen from 205,500*l.* to 228,235*l.*; while the efficiencies had risen from 115,427 to 124,605, and the extra-efficiencies from 78,280 to 90,516. He canvassed the claim of the volunteer officers for an increase in the capitation grant—justifying his refusal—and announced his intention to place the militia, volunteers, and the reserve forces generally under the command of one officer, General Lindsay. On the votes for stores and supplies, he explained that the increase was chiefly apparent, arising from a transfer of charge. It was proposed to convert this year 160,000 Enfields to Sniders, against 201,000 last year, at a cost of 159,604*l.*, and this would exhaust the Enfields available for conversion. With regard to the arm of the future, Sir John mentioned that no decision had yet been come to, but Lord Spencer's sub-committee was inquiring into it, and he expressed a strong belief that no country possessed a better arm than the Snider. Pointing out that it would be necessary immediately to undertake considerable expense for arming the fortifications which we had already built in different parts of the world, he announced his intention to place the manufacturing establishments at Woolwich under the control of a commandant, and in the concluding part of his speech he canvassed at length the recommendations of Lord Strathnairn's committee on army administration, and explained what he intended to do towards carrying them out. Sir H. Storks and General Balfour had been added to the War Office, and they had already drawn up plans for improving the external control of the War Department and the system of audit, which would lead to a considerable saving. They were also prepared to recommend changes in the transport service, which would give us a most complete system.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON complained of the continuous tendency of the Army Estimates to increase under the present Government, and contrasted it with the decrease effected by the late Government.

General PEEL pointed out that for our increased expenditure we had got a vastly improved system of recruiting, and had armed our troops with breech-loaders.

The usual desultory conversation followed, embracing all the points touched on in Sir J. Pakington's speech. Towards the close of it Mr. OTWAY moved to reduce the total number of men to be voted for the army by 2,758, being half the garrisons of the West Indies and the Mauritius, grounding his motion both on economical and sanitary grounds. He contended that our garrisons in these and similar stations were of no military value, that their real defence must be by sea, and he also insisted that our colonies should bear a greater share in the expenses of their own defence. Mr. CARDWELL also spoke in favour of impressing on the colonies that they must no longer trust entirely to British troops for their defence. Major ANSON and Captain VIVIAN spoke in favour of the motion, and Sir J. PAXINGTON gave further explanations of the estimates, and to Mr. Otway he replied that these colonial garrisons were a part of our old policy which could not be changed in a moment. Ultimately Mr. Otway withdrew his motion, and the vote of 138,691 men was agreed to. Votes were also agreed to, making up, with the sums taken already on account, 5,378,379*l.* pay allowance and charges. 1,239,807*l.* Commissariat establishment.

Several orders were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at five minutes past one o'clock.

On Tuesday the adjourned debate on Mr. Dodson's resolutions for altering the procedure on Private Bills was resumed, and ended in their withdrawal.

On the motion of Mr. BOUVIER, (acting for Mr. Coleridge) the order on the University Tests Bill was postponed till the 13th of May.

THE LICENCE TAX.

Mr. MARSH called attention to our system of licence duties, arguing that their effect is to check the industry and commerce of the country, that they press most hardly on the poorest classes, that they cost more to those who pay them than is received by the Exchequer, and that they restrict the consumption of many important articles. He concluded by moving a resolution calling for the abolition of these duties, though he intimated that he should not press it to a division. Mr. LABOUCHERE dilated on the grievance of the London brewers, who only made about 8 per cent. profit, and on whom Mr. Gladstone had imposed a duty of 15 per cent. on their trade profits; and Mr. BASS argued that, while any licence system must be bad unless it were general, the tax on brewers was positively iniquitous. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that Mr. Marsh had made out a good case against the licence duties in some instances, but pointed out the difficulty of dealing piecemeal with the question, and promised to take Mr. Marsh's representations into

consideration. Mr. GLADSTONE agreed that nothing could be more anomalous than our present system of licences, though any change would be surrounded with difficulties. The motion was withdrawn.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Mr. SAMUELSON moved for a select committee to inquire into the provisions for giving instruction in theoretical and applied science to the industrial classes. In an interesting speech he canvassed the working of the schools under the Science and Art Department, showing that the results were unsatisfactory, and that a great improvement in scientific education was necessary for the development of our manufacturing prosperity; and he held out a strong hope that it would, at the same time, promote the literary and general education of the working classes.

The motion was seconded by Mr. DIXON and supported by Mr. BAINES, who held that a strong case for inquiry had been made out, but preferred that it should be by a Royal Commission. Mr. BAZLEY denied that we were retrograding in any branch of manufactures, and he deprecated the interference of the State in the education of the workshop. Mr. E. PORTER took entirely the same view as Mr. Bazley, and denied that it was the duty of the Government to supply a kind of education which the manufacturers themselves had done so little to promote; and Lord R. MONTAGU laid it down that the duty of the State did not go beyond giving the workman such knowledge of the natural laws applicable to his calling as would enable him to exercise it with the greatest effect. The State had to do with the brain, the workshop must perfect the hands. He traced the improvements effected in many branches of our manufactures by the educational movement which was the result of the Exhibition of 1851, and he argued that the chief things to be avoided were the establishment of special schools and of State manufactures for the encouragement of trade. The recent Minute of Council for the creation of industrial schools, he explained, had been very successful, and he concluded by acceding to the motion for a committee.

Mr. H. A. BRUCE dwelt on the importance of elementary education, and Mr. HENLEY ridiculed the suggestion that a trade could be taught in school; the workshop was the only training-school. The committee was eventually agreed to.

Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE moved a resolution for the revision and equalisation of the Post Horses and Carriage Licence Duties, by means of a scheme which he explained in detail, and the broad feature of which was to substitute for the present duties a tax of 1*l.* on every horse and 2*l.* on every vehicle. Mr. AYRTON argued in favour of total remission. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER pointed out the impossibility of sacrificing so large an item of the revenue, and, after some remarks from Mr. Alderman LUSK, Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE withdrew his motion.

Mr. HARDY brought in the Boundaries Bill, which he explained was exactly in the shape of the Report of the Parliamentary Commission.

A bill was brought in by Mr. MONK to relieve customs and excise officers from their present disability to vote at Parliamentary elections.

The committal of the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Bill was opposed by various members, but carried by 147 to thirty-three votes. A clause prepared by Mr. Ayrton to exempt all factories within the Metropolitan Police area was negatived by 146 to eighty-six, and the bill passed through committee.

COMPULSORY CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved the third reading of this bill. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENLEY hoped, as some important additions had been made to the bill, that the right hon. gentleman would not proceed with it without allowing further time for its consideration. ("Oh, oh," and cries of "Go on.")

Sir R. PALMER said the amendments were merely the result of the discussion the clauses underwent in committee, and in no way altered the general character of the bill. (Hear, hear.) The object of the new clauses had been to allow owners the option of paying the rate instead of occupiers, and of giving them a vote in case they did so.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved the adjournment of the House, on the ground that the effect of the bill had been very materially altered since it passed through committee.

The motion for adjournment was negatived without a division.

Mr. SCHREIBER moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House divided—

Ayes 28
Noes 131—103

Mr. NEWDEGATE said it was evident that great exertions had been made to secure the attendance of the opposite party, and he would not trouble the House with further opposition. He was convinced that if this bill passed the parochial organisation of the Church of England would be at an end.

The bill was then read a third time and passed, amidst loud cheers.

The bills for the introduction of which leave was obtained during the sitting, including the Mutiny Bill, were brought in and read a first time, and the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

On Wednesday Mr. STACPOOLE moved the second reading of the Irish Grand Jury Cess Bill, but was invited by Lord MAYO to withdraw it, inasmuch as the whole question of the Irish grand jury laws had been referred to a select committee. To give practical effect to his objection the noble lord proposed that the second reading should be deferred for six months. Mr. STACPOOLE declined to yield to the proposal of the Chief Secretary respecting his bill, and, on a division, his bill was thrown out by a majority of seventy to fifty-seven. Despite the opposition of Mr. VANCE and some other gentlemen, the House went into committee on the Irish Industrial Schools Bill, and proceeded to discuss its provisions. Tancred's Charity Bill was rejected, and the Mutiny Bill was read a second time. The House rose at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

THE LAST CHURCH-RATE DIVISION IN THE COMMONS.

The following is the division list of Mr. Schreiber's motion for the adjournment of the debate on the third reading of the Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill. It may be desirable to state that it did not take place till after one o'clock on Wednesday morning:—

AYES.

Antrobus, E
Brett, Sir W
Bridges, Sir B
Bruen, H
Cox, W T
Dimdale, R
Dyott, Col R
Fellowes, E
Greene, E
Gwyn, H
Hervey, Lord A

Henley, J W
Lanyon, Sir C
Lechmere, Sir E
Lindsay, Col R L
Manners, Lord J
Northcote, Sir S
Pakington, Sir J
Parker, Major W
Schlater-Booth, G
Scourfield, J H
Seymour, G H

Simonds, W B
Smith, A
Stronge, Sir J
Stuart, Col W
Turner, C
Warren, R R

TELLERS.
Schreiber, C
Newdegate, C N

NOES.

Acland, T D
Adam, W P
Agar-Ellis, L
Akroyd, E
Ayrton, A S
Aytoun, R S
Baines, E
Barnes, T
Barnett, H
Bass, A
Bates, M T
Bazley, T
Blake, J A
Bonham-Carter, J
Brand, Hon H
Bright, J
Bruce, Lord C
Bruce, H H
Buller, Sir E M
Calthorpe, H F W
Candlish, J
Castlerease, Visct
Cave, T
Cavendish, Lord E
Cavendish, Lord F C
Childers, H C E
Clement, W J
Clinton, Lord E
Colthurst, Sir G C
Cowen, J
Cowper, W F
Craufurd, E H J
Crawford, R W
Crossley, Sir F
Dalglish, R
Dent, J D
Dixon, G
Dilke, Sir W
Dillwyn, L L
Dodson, J G
Edwards, Sir H
Edwards, H
Enfield, Viscount
Esmonds, J
Evans, T W

Eykyn, R
Forster, C
Forster, W O
Fortescue, D F
Gaskell, J M
Gladstone, W E
Gladstone, W H
Goschen, G J
Graham, W
Grosvenor, Capt R W
Gurney, R
Gurney, S
Hadfield, G
Harris, J D
Hartington, Marquis
Heneage, E
Hibbert, J T
Ingham, R
Kavanagh, A
Kingscote, Col
Labouchere, H
Lawrence, W
Lawson, J A
Leatham, W H
Leeman, G
Lewis, H
Locke, J
Lusk, Alderman
Mackinnon, Captain
M'Lagan, P
M'Laren, D
Martin, P W
Melly, G
Milbank, F A
Mills, J R
Mitchell, T A
Monk, C J
Montgomery, Sir G
Morris, W
Murphy, N D
Neate, C
Neville-Grenville, R
O'Brien, Sir P
Otway, A J
Owen, Sir H O

Padmore, R
Paget, T T
Palmer, Sir R
Pence, J W
Phillips, R N
Pim, J
Platt, J
Pollard-Urquhart, W
Potter, E
Powell, F S
Price, R G
Rearden, D J
Rebow, J G
Robertson, D
Robertson, P F
Russell, H
Russell, Sir W
Salomons, Alderman
Samuda, J D A
Seeley, C
Seymour, A
Sheridan, H B
Sheriff, A C
Simeon, Sir J
Smith, J
Spies, A A
Stacpoole, W
Sullivan, E
Thompson, M W
Vanderbyl, P
Waldegrave-Lealie, G
Waring, C
Waterhouse, S
Watkin, E W
Western, Sir T B
Whitbread, S
Winterbotham, H
Woods, H
Wyld, J
Wynne, W R M
Young, R

TELLERS.

Hardcastle, J A
Glyn, G G

There were besides seventeen pairs.

Referring to this division the *Daily News* says:—

It remains to be seen how the House of Lords will deal with a measure which comes to it practically unopposed from the House of Commons. A compromise suggested by Mr. Bright, reduced to form by Mr. Gladstone, and accepted by Lord Cranborne, is powerfully recommended to the good sense and moderation of reasonable men. Our only misgiving as to the conduct of the Peers arises from the attitude assumed by members of the Government in the House of Commons. They have betrayed an ill-will to the measure to which they dared not give open expression. Mr. G. Hardy, on the introduction of the bill, spoke in a tone which probably would have been distinctly hostile but for the warning language of Lord Cranborne. On Tuesday night, six members of the Government, including three members of the Cabinet, strove to delay the bill. They voted for the adjournment of the debate on a subject already debated to death. Sir John Pakington, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord John Manners, Mr. Slater-Booth, the Solicitor-General for England, and the Attorney-General for Ireland, wanted more time. To these names we may add that of Mr. Henley, who is the adviser of the advisers of the Crown, and practically as much a member of the Government as if he held office and had a seat in the Cabinet.

THE FENIANS.—Captain Deasy, the Fenian, who was rescued from the prison van at Manchester after a desperate and fatal conflict between his rescuers and the police—for the murder of whom three men were executed—was arrested on Thursday morning in bed, in a house in Ordsall-lane, Salford. It is said that he has never left the neighbourhood since his rescue. The convicts Thompson and Mullady, sentenced to be hung for participating in the murder of Sergeant Brett at Manchester, have been respited. Four arrests for supposed Fenianism have been made in Cork. "Captain" Mackay, the Fenian convicted at Cork for treason-felony, has been sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude. He acknowledged that he had had a fair trial. Mannix and Walsh, two men charged with attempting to rescue Mackay from the custody of the police, were sentenced each to twelve months' imprisonment.

MUSIO.

NATIONAL CHORAL SOCIETY.—This vigorous and flourishing society resumed its present series of concerts, which, for some unexplained reason, had been suspended since January 8th, with a performance of Handel's "Acis and Galatea," and Mendelssohn's "First Walpurgis Night," on Wednesday evening, when Exeter Hall was comfortably filled by a delighted audience. Madame Rudersdorff sustained the part of Galatea with her usual power and skill, but hardly appeared to infuse into it the kind of feeling most appropriate to the joys and sorrows of the gushing maiden; and in altogether forgetting to sing the first strain of the solo, "For us the zephyr blows," while the band went on with the accompaniment, betrayed a want of familiarity with the work which, for an artiste in her position, was rather astonishing. Still less successful was Mr. Leigh Wilson, in his rendering of the one solo which he sang out of the several which had been set down to him as Acis. It seems a pity that, with his excellent voice, Mr. Wilson should carelessly perpetrate blunders of which any respectable amateur chorus-singer would be ashamed; but he was probably indisposed, as he retired early in the evening, leaving his place to be supplied by Mr. Kerr Gedge, who, in addition to the remaining music of Acis, sang that which had been allotted to him as Damon, with a capital voice, and with a remarkable purity of style. The favourite tenor song, "Love in her eyes sits playing," was, however, omitted altogether. But the triumph of the evening was, as might have been expected, achieved by Mr. Santley in his character of Polyphemus. This gentleman's superb delivery of "O ruddier than the cherry," must be vividly remembered by all who heard it at the last Handel Festival. Adequately to describe its effect would be impossible; it was unanimously redemanded, as a matter of course. The execution of the choruses left little to be desired. The lively ones were given with much energy and precision; "Wretched lovers"—that *belles noir* of choral societies—was delivered without a flaw, though the tenors, when divided, were hardly strong enough; and an exquisite pianissimo was attained in "Mourn, all ye muses." Space permits us merely to add that the weird music of the "Walpurgis Night" was performed, for the first time in Exeter Hall, in a manner which reflected the highest credit on the society and its indefatigable conductor, Mr. Martin. Mr. Santley was the Druid priest, and Madame Osborne Williams gave the only contralto solo of the evening, "Dare ye thus," with considerable ability. The band, which had seemed hardly powerful enough in "Acis and Galatea," where the strings predominate, appeared to greater advantage in the "Walpurgis Night," where the wind instruments are more prominent, especially in the chorus, "Come with weapons," with the "owls screaming, serpents hissing, demons yelling," and other horrors too numerous to mention. Both works are shortly to be repeated; but as a due counterpoise to all this heathenish music, it is announced that a "passion-week" performance of the "Messiah" will take place on April 6.

CAMDEN AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY.—On Tuesday evening an organ built by Mr. Robson, of St. Martin's-lane, at a cost of 350*l.*, was to have been opened by Mr. J. Baptiste Calkin, at Upper Holloway Chapel, where the Rev. S. H. Booth has been successfully prosecuting his labours since last September. The instrument was also to have been used in accompanying a selection of music to be sung by the members of the above society, who usually give their services once a year in aid of some praiseworthy enterprise. The chapel was filled by an expectant audience, but at the hour announced for the commencement of the proceedings, Mr. Booth had to announce, to his deep mortification and that of all concerned, that the builder had failed to complete the organ in the specified time, and that it was unfit for use; but that the vocal music would then be performed with pianoforte accompaniment, and the entire programme, including Mr. Calkin's organ solos, repeated next Monday evening, when the audience would be entitled to readmission. This announcement having been kindly received, a selection from the better known works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and others, was performed under the able direction of Mr. Charles Dury, conductor of the society, Mr. Calkin kindly officiating as accompanist in a manner worthy of his reputation. The air, "O rest in the Lord," was sung by a young lady whose rich contralto voice and finished style we have rarely heard excelled even in a professional artiste. The air was unanimously redemanded, as was also the song, "I dreamt I was in heaven," from Costa's "Naaman," which was very effectively given by another young lady, who also sang Mendelssohn's "Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets." "If with all your hearts," from "Elijah," was ably sung by Mr. Julius Charlier, and the exacting bass solo, "Thou art the King of Glory," by Mr. Beardwell. The effective quartet, "God is a Spirit," from Sterndale Bennett's cantata, the "Woman of Samaria," elicited a hearty encore. In their execution of the choral music, the members of the society creditably sustained the high reputation they have earned by their previous performances in the neighbourhood.

Postscript.

Friday, March 27, 1868.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

In the House of Lords yesterday the Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill was brought up from

the Commons, and read a first time. The second reading was fixed for Thursday next.

The Non-traders Bankruptcy (Ireland) Bill and the Fairs (Ireland) Bill passed through committee.

Earl STANHOPE moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of any law as to the assumption of ecclesiastical titles in Great Britain and Ireland, and whether any, and what alteration should be made therein.

Lord REDBURN said the act was a protest, not so much against the assumption of ecclesiastical titles, as against the power of conferring them by a foreign prelate. The change in the government of the Roman Catholic Church in England, by giving territorial titles to her bishops, was made for the purpose of aggression, and the Government had acted rightly in meeting that aggression. It was scarcely worth while to take steps to enforce the penalties, but the act itself was most valuable as a protest.

Lord LYVEDEN looked upon the appointment of a committee as premature, as there was a bill before the House of Commons for the repeal of the act.

The Duke of SOMERSET was still of the opinion he expressed when the act was passed, that the act of the Pope in conferring ecclesiastical titles upon Roman Catholic prelates in this country was an outrage upon the Queen and the liberties of the country.

Earl GREY said the bill before the House of Commons repealed the act; but it was necessary to go a step further, and to declare the effect which the act had produced.

The LORD CHANCELLOR thought a case had been made out for the appointment of a committee.

The Earl of MALMESBURY said the Government, as a government, had no objection to the appointment of a committee; but on the contrary regarded it as rather useful than otherwise.

The motion was then agreed to, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to seven o'clock.

In the Commons Mr. FAWCETT gave notice of a motion, the effect of which is, that Trinity College and its revenues shall be made a purely national institution, instead of the sectarian affair it now virtually is. The notice was received with loud cheers.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. MOFFATT called attention to the state of the bankruptcy law, and quoted statistics for the purpose of showing that it had been getting from bad to worse with every recent alteration, and is now in that state that it gives the greatest facility to fraud on the part of a debtor, and leads to the confiscation of the property of the creditor.

The House then went into committee of supply on the army estimates, and passed a number of votes.

On the vote of 348,807*l.* for the volunteers, a somewhat lengthened discussion took place, in the course of which Colonel Bartlett, General Lindsay, Alderman Lusk, Mr. Adland, and Lord Elcho impressed on the Government the necessity of increasing the grant, on account of the difficulty at present experienced in raising funds to defray the requisite expenses, and the probability there is that, if the expenses continue to fall, as at present, on the officers, the force will disappear. Sir J. PAKINGTON said the intention of the volunteer movement was that the volunteers should be a self-supporting corps. If they had proposed an increase of the vote, they would have had a number of members objecting to it.

On the order of the day for going into committee on the Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill,

Mr. A. MITCHELL moved a resolution affirming that while the House earnestly desires to provide the best tribunal for the trial of controverted elections, and to ensure the detection and punishment of bribery and corruption, it is not prepared to assent to any measure which aims at the destruction of its ancient privilege to hold in its own hands the power of determining who are its members.

Mr. WHITBREAD said the plan of the hon. member would bring back the great evil which Grenville's Act was intended to remedy, the discussion in the House of the merits of election petitions. The three great objects to be ensured were an immediate trial, a trial on the spot, and a trial before a person well versed in the law, and these objects would be attained by the bill.

Mr. H. BEEKELEY considered the bill was merely an attempt to get rid of the necessity of resorting to secret voting.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE said the objections of them over of the resolution really come to this, that it was only the House of Commons that was interested in the purity of election.

Mr. W. MARTIN thought the bill would be a very tyrannical one if it did not define clearly what bribery was.

Mr. J. S. MILL said if the question were between the bill and the amendment he should have no hesitation in deciding for the bill; not that he thought it came up to what it ought to be. It contained only one expedient, but that was a strong one. It they wished to put down bribery they must resort to many expedients. There was some reason in the objection against turning the jurisdiction of the House over to a judge appointed by the Crown; but one way of getting over this would be to make the act temporary. He suggested that there should be an inquiry into every election before a tribunal of barristers, with an appeal to a committee of the House.

Mr. BOUVIERE recommended the withdrawal of the amendment.

Mr. AYRTON joined in the recommendation, but objected to the bill, because he conceived that the

bill was artfully designed for the purpose of encouraging bribery and corruption.

Mr. WALPOLE answered some of the objections to the measure.

Mr. HENLEY strongly objected to the transfer of the jurisdiction of the House to a single man.

Mr. CRAUFORD moved the adjournment of the House, but the motion was not seconded.

The amendment was then negatived without a division, and the House went into committee on the bill.

In reply to Mr. Ayrton, Mr. DISRAELI said he proposed to bring in analogous bills for Ireland and Scotland.

The House having gone into committee on the Mutiny Bill, Mr. OTWAY moved to insert the words in clause 22 to provide that no court-martial shall have power in time of peace to sentence any soldier to corporal punishment. Sir J. PAKINGTON said a great concession was made last session, when the power of inflicting corporal punishment was reduced to a great extent. Another reason against the motion was that a royal commission was at this time inquiring into the whole system of military punishment.

Mr. Headlam, Captain Vivian, and Colonel Wilson Patten, all stated that as they were members of the commission they should abstain from voting. The amendment was carried by 152 to 127.

Another amendment was carried against the Government, though no division was taken upon it, by which the power of billeting on private houses in Ireland was abolished.

The remaining orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to two o'clock.

MR. DISRAELI AND THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Disraeli to the Earl of Dartmouth, in reply to a memorial, expressing confidence in his Premiership, forwarded to the right hon. gentleman by the Council of the National Union and of the constitutional associations connected with that body:—

"10, Downing-street, March 24, 1868.

"My Lord,—I have received with pride and gratitude the memorial of the Council of the National Union and of the constitutional associations connected with that body, in which they express their confidence in me, and their 'thorough determination' to support by all means in their power the Government I have formed by the command and with the approval of her Majesty. Such expressions of feeling on the part of influential bodies of my countrymen are encouragingly opportune. We have heard something lately of the crisis of Ireland. In my opinion the crisis of England is rather at hand; for the purpose is now avowed, and that by a powerful party, of destroying that sacred union between Church and State which has hitherto been the chief means of our civilisation, and is the only security for our religious liberty.

"I have the honour to remain, my lord, yours sincerely,

"B. DISRAELI.

"The Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth."

COVENTRY ELECTION.—Mr. Samuel Carter was returned for Coventry on Thursday, by a majority of 281 votes. The state of the poll at the close, as officially declared by the Mayor, was as follows:—

Carter (Liberal) ...	2,415
Hill (Conservative) ...	2,134

Majority for Carter ... 281.

The successful candidate is a native of Coventry, a thorough Liberal, and a Dissenter. The Tories took possession of the polling-booths at seven o'clock a.m., and, as a natural consequence, Mr. Staveley Hill, Q.C., the Conservative candidate, was 200 a-head at nine o'clock. The Liberals threw great spirit into the contest, and at eleven o'clock Mr. Carter outstripped his opponent, and from this hour he gained steadily on him until the final close of the poll. The Tory public-houses as usual were open for beer *ad lib.*, and the Tory mob was inebriated all through the election. In contrast to this, not a shilling was spent in beer on the Liberal side, and but for the strictly purity principles on which Mr. Carter fought his majority would have been considerably greater. The excitement all day was intense, and the Tories were violent with anger. By their petition, which unseated Jackson, they have made it almost a certainty that Jackson and Carter will go back at the next election for Coventry. Whenever Mr. Jackson appeared during the election he was received with immense enthusiasm. This election has been fought under the new Reform Act, the provisions of which are most stringent in regard to the payment of money.—From a Correspondent.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The supply of English wheat on sale here to-day, coastwise and by land-carriage, was very moderate, and in but middling condition. Most kinds met a slow inquiry; nevertheless, compared with Monday, no quotable change took place in prices. With foreign wheat we were well supplied. The finest samples commanded full quotations; but inferior parcels were very dull, at late rates. Floating cargoes of grain moved off slowly, at the late decline in value. The small quantity of malting barley sold at full quotations.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.				
Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch 1,070	500	1,120	50	1,550
Irish	—	—	20	—
Foreign	20,370	16,990	58,460	770 sks.
				1,510 bls.
				Maise, 8,460 qrs.

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One Line A Shilling.
Each additional Line Sixpence.

There are, on an average, eight words in a line.

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Advertisers of all classes will find THE NONCONFORMIST a valuable Medium for their Announcements.

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Unstamped Copies may be had at the Railway Stations, and at the Local Booksellers and News Agents; but an unstamped copy sent by post must have a penny postage-stamp affixed each time of transmission.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the announcement in our last number, the *Nonconformist* will be published next week, and subsequently, on Wednesday instead of Friday. We would respectfully call the attention of advertisers and correspondents to the change back to our original day of publication in order that their communications may reach us in due time.

The Nonconformist.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1868.

SUMMARY.

In the midst of sharp and exciting political conflict, the leaders of parties do not forget the amenities of social life. Last week Mr. Disraeli was present at one of Mrs. Gladstone's assemblies; this week Mr. Gladstone has attended the brilliant reception of Mrs. Disraeli, when Royalty and the "upper ten thousand" crowded the apartments of the new Foreign Office, thrown open specially for that occasion, to pay their tribute of respect to the new Prime Minister. It is pleasant to see combatants shaking hands before the deadly strife sets in. Mr. Disraeli is equal to the occasion. He has promptly given his followers the word of command. It is the good old cry, though not likely to be so effective as in the days of rampant ecclesiastical intolerance, of "the Church in danger." He tells his "constitutional" friends, who always turn up on an emergency, that the "crisis" is in England rather than Ireland; "for the purpose is now avowed, and that by a powerful party, of destroying that sacred union between Church and State which has hitherto been the chief means of our civilisation, and is the only security for our religious liberty." The clergy of the Church of England will hardly thank the Prime Minister for his transparent device of putting their Establishment in the foreground to meet the brunt of the attack on the doomed Irish Church. He has, however, a phalanx of determined supporters and great vested interests at his back, who by petitions, the canvass of members, and every other kind of pressure, will do their utmost to sow dissension among the Opposition, and defeat Mr. Gladstone's resolutions. An attempt is, it is said, being made to get up a fresh Liberal "Cave," in which Lord Edo and Mr. Laing are understood to be active; but there is good reason to believe that the mass of the Liberal party, if adequately sustained out of doors, will hold together, and pronounce next week by a considerable majority for the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

The result of the Coventry election is a good omen. It will be remembered that Mr. Jackson, the late member for that city, was unseated for bribery, on the petition of the redoubtable Mr. Ferrand, his unsuccessful opponent. The citizens of Coventry have promptly replaced him by a hearty Liberal and Dissenter, who will have the opportunity of taking part in the decisive division of next Friday. On the part of Mr. Carter's friends the election was conducted on strict purity principles, and, since the Tory beer and Tory mobs, he has been returned by a majority of nearly 2000 votes. It was a contest nobly fought, and the Liberal will probably rescue that city for the Liberal cause. To our friends, who will be called upon ere long to prepare for the next general election, we commend the ex-

ample of the South Essex Nonconformists, who are resolved to support no candidate for Liberal suffrages that does not heartily adopt the programme of the Liberal leader on the Irish Church.

As all next week will be absorbed in the struggle over the Irish Church, Parliament has this week been appropriately turning its attention to quiet business. The Lords have discussed a bill for bringing railways under the more direct control of the Government with a view to the protection of the public, which will be keenly scrutinised when it comes down to the Lower House, where directors are plentiful. The President of the Council has also introduced the Ministerial measure for supplementing the present means of elementary education; the shortcomings of which were pointed out by Earl Granville and Earl Russell. Lord Chancellor Cairns has also brought in, and explained with luminous clearness, the Bills for dealing with the urgent and intricate question of bankruptcy, which effect considerable alterations and improvements in the present system, though leaving much still to be done. In an elaborate survey of these provisions, the *Daily News* thus indicates the drift of these measures:—"Its weak parts relate to the constitution of the courts, which are left much as they are at present. Its recommendations are that it tends to protect the creditor by strengthening the debtor's sense of his responsibility for his debt, which the legislation of the last few years has undoubtedly tended to weaken. The unprincipled consumer will find a check upon his extravagance in the creditor's new right to arrest wages and salaries, and in his liability to pay old debts out of subsequently acquired means. The mercantile community, however, will look mainly to the promise of rapid and economical administration of bankrupts' estates. A concession to their wishes is made in the adoption of the Scotch plan of trusteeship; it remains to be seen whether there is anything in the organisation of the English courts to obstruct its working." The three Bills have been read a second time, and will be referred to the consideration of a select committee.

The new treaty between the United States and the North German Confederation on the subject of extradition has been made public. It provides that the Government of the Confederation will consider North Germans in America to be Americans when they are naturalised there, and have lived there five years. An exception is made, however, in the case of criminals and deserters, and certain classes have to obtain permission to emigrate. If a German naturalised in America returns to his native country without intending to come back to America, he is to be considered as having abandoned his American naturalisation. The same is to be the case with Germans who, whatever may be their intentions, return to their native country and reside there two years. The treaty, which is to remain in force ten years, will probably form the basis of a similar arrangement between the United States and England. The whole subject was discussed at the instance of Mr. W. E. Forster in the Commons last Friday in a conciliatory spirit; and in the course of the debate Lord Stanley stated that the British Minister at Washington had been instructed to express the entire willingness of our Government to take the subject into consideration, and to meet the United States half-way. The political difficulties, he said, were very small, but the legal intricacies were considerable, and would require preliminary investigation. Ere long, we doubt not, the question will be amicably settled by the agency of a joint commission.

Things in France wear anything but a pleasing aspect, spite of the issue of the Imperial pamphlet. There have been disturbances of rather a serious nature, in connection with the revision of the lists for the new Guard Mobile, at Bordeaux and other places, as well as at Toulouse. In most towns the young men show an utter disgust at being called on to serve, and the prefects and other officials are greatly perplexed at the passive resistance offered to the new law. If there has been less opposition in the rural districts, it is because the peasantry have been sedulously informed that their country will ere long be invaded, and that they must fly to its defence! The Opposition is in high glee at the progress of disaffection, which will not be diminished by the heavy loan soon to be proposed—which will, it is said, be nearly double the amount originally announced—and the passing by the Legislative Body of the stringent law relating to public meetings.

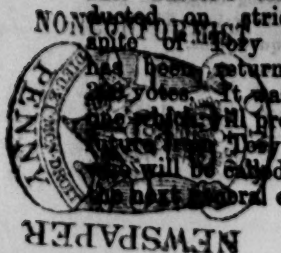
"Liberty as in Austria" is a French cry which has a substantial basis. During the past week there has been a great debate in the Upper House of the Reichsrath on the Civil

Marriages Bill, a measure which recognises the validity of marriages legally contracted, but without an ecclesiastical ceremonial. Cardinals Rauscher, Schwartzburg, and other ultramontane magnates, insisted that the Bill was a violation of an international treaty with the Pope, viz., the Concordat. Several Ministers and ex-Ministers showed the fallacy of this argument, and the Chamber voted the principle of the Bill by a large majority. On Saturday, the overjoyed Viennese spontaneously illuminated their houses, and indulged in street demonstrations, in honour of this signal victory over priestly intolerance. The Bill was afterwards passed through all its stages, only seventeen peers at the last voting against it. The Cardinals and Bishops have protested and withdrawn from the House, but as the Public Schools Bill has yet to be discussed, they may repent of their retirement, though evidently their influence will not avail to prevent freedom of education being established. The Austrian and Hungarian Delegations have come to a complete understanding on financial matters; and altogether constitutional government is being firmly established in the dominions of Francis Joseph.

The impeachment trial of President Johnson has fairly commenced. His counsel have filed an answer denying all the charges, but their demand for thirty days to prepare for his defence has been refused by the Senate, which has ordered the trial to commence on Monday next. Well-informed Americans anticipate that the proceedings must necessarily be so protracted that the public interest in them will cease. As time advances, the next Presidential election will supersede Mr. Johnson's trial as a subject of more practical importance, and Chief Justice Chase, who presides over the Senate Court, will have no strong motive to bring to a speedy close a State prosecution which might assist the claims of General Grant as the candidate of the Republican party. Meanwhile, Congress has passed a supplementary Reconstruction Bill, providing that elections in the South shall be decided by the majority of votes cast, which will meet the Alabama case, and ere long reinforce the majority of Republicans in the Washington Legislature by a number of Southern members.

THE COMING CONFLICT.

MANY of our friends, we are afraid, have jumped to the comfortable conclusion that Mr. Gladstone's recent avowal with regard to the Irish Church is decisive of the issue—some of them are kindly congratulating us as though the victory were won. So it is potentially, and so it will prove to be actually, if the conditions of success are complied with. We are not putting off our armour after the conflict—we are only putting it on for the fight. We have good right to anticipate a favourable issue—we have no right to assume that such an issue will be independent of our own efforts. Let us tell our readers plainly that nothing is to be expected from this contest but what will have to be hardy earned. Between them and the realisation of their hopes—even with Mr. Gladstone to lead them, and with the newly-created constituencies to give increased weight to their efforts—there will have to intervene one of the sternest, stubbornest, most stupendous struggles of modern days. They need not flatter themselves with an easy triumph, such as might safely be predicted where sincerity in a majority does battle with insincerity in a minority. It is not with a mere pretence they will have to grapple on the present occasion. The fact that Mr. Disraeli is at the head of their antagonists ought not to mislead them. Whatever he may be, his party, for the most part, are terribly earnest. They will not surrender their cherished principle, even in Ireland, without first putting out their whole strength. And their strength, be it borne in mind, will be mainly derived from religious sentiment—misdirected, because misinformed, it may be, but religious sentiment notwithstanding. Of this the political managers—the Tapers and the Tadpoles of the Tories—will avail themselves to the utmost—little scrupling to offend the religious tastes of those whom they intend to use. We shall have the "No Popery" cry—we shall have an appeal to the godly against the godless—we shall have to confront the fierceness of Orangeism—we shall have to face a hurricane of abuse against Dissenters and Revolutionists—we shall have to surrender pleasant friendships—we may have to encounter lawless mobs—the clergy will leave no stone unturned to prevent the abolition of the Irish Church Establishment—the squirearchy will second their efforts with all the means of moral coercion they have at their command—rank and wealth will frown upon an



enterprise which both have been labouring for many years past to avert. Assuredly there will be severe fighting; but we have the elements of victory on our side, and we can only fail winning by failing to deserve winning.

We are most anxious thus early to forewarn our friends—Liberationists especially—of what is before them, not with any view of toning down their expectations, but with a view of screwing up their will to duty. They should be at work, at once, everywhere, to the fullest extent of their opportunity. They have never yet, as far as our memory serves, been called upon to bestir themselves, that they have not promptly, nobly, often at no little sacrifice of their immediate interests, responded to the call. But they never had such a "necessity laid upon them" as they have at this moment. Perhaps, moreover, they never had the same temptation presented them to place their trust elsewhere than in their own efforts. They have a splendid leader surrounded by a brilliant staff—they have a cause which commends itself by its massive grandeur and sublime simplicity to the popular mind and heart—and they have a rare concurrence of Providential events which appears, like a divine prophecy, to herald an approaching triumph. The danger is lest these things should insinuate into their minds a suspicion that their individual efforts would be supererogatory. "What can we do?" they may ask themselves. Well, we devoutly hope that, in an inquiring, and not a self-excusing, spirit, every one who casts his eyes over these columns, will put the question to himself—"What can I do?" Let him bear with us in attempting a reply—"In this most critical juncture, you can at least let your Parliamentary representative know how you think and feel. If his mind is in unison with yours, it will strengthen him—if not, it will be a timely warning to him. You can call, or if summoned by others, can attend a conference of friends and neighbours to devise and determine upon such concerted action as time will admit of—you can, with them, pass resolutions and advertise them—if you have not already begun to do so, you can begin to look sharply after the registration of votes for the ensuing general election—you can assist in diffusing intelligence, in correcting misapprehensions, in soothing ruffled tempers, and in stirring up the sluggish to take their part in this work. Mr. Gladstone will both need, and will know how to utilise, all individual activity in support of the cause he has taken in hand. Only remember that what is done must be done quickly."

Turning to the impending Parliamentary struggle, we claim the privilege of offering a remark or two. It seems probable that Mr. Gladstone in introducing his resolutions may sketch in outline the plan by which he will propose to reduce them to practice. We have great confidence in the resources of his inventive mind, and can rely very implicitly upon his statesmanlike sagacity. But, of course, it is conceivable that the machinery devised to give legislative effect to the principle may be thought at first glance too complicated, or in some other way unfitted, for smooth working. Should this turn out to be the case—and we have no reason to anticipate that it will—we yet trust that members will draw a clear line of distinction in their own minds between what ought to be done, and what is the best way of doing it, and vote for the former, whatever they may think of the latter, because the one constitutes the essence of the question, the other is only accidental to it. So much has been said of the superlative difficulty of making practical arrangements for withdrawing from the tissue a people's pecuniary interests just so much of the national property heretofore regarded as ecclesiastical as will disendow the Church without doing injury to the private and social rights with which that property has become interwoven, that the majority of people seem to regard it as a most perilous undertaking. Difficult, undoubtedly it will be, but we venture to say that the main complications will not need to be unravelled by Parliament. Parliament will have to determine these things—1. That the ecclesiastical endowment now enjoyed by a dignified or benefited clergyman shall continue to be his until his death, and that he shall continue to render the service for which he receives it. 2. That no successor be appointed at his death, and that the revenue thereupon revert to the State. 3. That all reasonable and moral claims upon that revenue, on the part either of individuals or communities, in compensation for pecuniary detriment inflicted upon them by the new appropriation of the endowment, be judicially inquired into and liberally allowed. 4. That a Court both of equity and of administration, analogous to the Encumbered Estates Court, be organised, to conduct such examination and to make its

award. And, 5, that the general rules for the guidance of this Court as to the description of persons to whom, and cases in which, compensation is considered to be due, be carefully and clearly drawn. The business of the Court would be distributed pretty equally over many years—and to it, in fact, Parliament would commit the responsibility of carrying the law into practice, in such manner as would mete out what is just and liberal to all the parties concerned. The impracticability of fashioning the machinery required by the end contemplated, is, and ought to be, treated as a bugbear.

We will not take up the time of our readers by speculating upon the proximate consequences of the debate and division of next week. No reasonable man now expects a penal dissolution of Parliament—not many, we fancy, look for the resignation of the Government. It will be for the reformed constituencies to settle the question once for all—but Mr. Gladstone has done right in preparing the way for their judgment.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

At length we have, from the lips of the Duke of Marlborough, a summary of the reforms which the Disraeli Administration propose to effect in our system of national education. Considering the long and loud blowing of trumpets which preceded the introduction of the measure, many will be disappointed, if not altogether surprised, at the smallness of the change proposed. Substantially, the measure propounded by the noble President of the Council consists of the Privy Council scheme modified in the following respects. There is to be a Secretary of State for Education, instead of the President and Vice-President of the Committee of Council—the revised code is to be turned into an Act of Parliament—and an educational census is to be taken in such parts of the kingdom as the aforesaid Secretary of State may deem to require it. State aid is to be extended to secular schools, and, in poorer districts, and in smaller proportions, to schools without certificated teachers. A modified Conscience Clause is to be enforced in certain cases, and larger building grants are to be given. The aid of rates is to be everywhere eschewed.

The time is hardly come for collating, comparing, and minutely criticising the several plans now before the public, or even the two measures before Parliament, for securing the elementary education of the English people. We do not think the task an appropriate one for a moribund Parliament, and we have more than once given our reasons for that conclusion. We are the less anxious to insist upon it now, because we are convinced that no measure will stand a chance of receiving the imprimatur of the Legislature before the reformed constituent bodies have an opportunity of exercising the franchise. Whether Mr. Disraeli do or do not resign office before the close of the Session, or whether Mr. Gladstone do or do not succeed to the Premiership, one thing is tolerably certain, that the season is now too far advanced, the routine business of the House of Commons is too far in arrears, and the measures which claim a priority are too weighty and urgent, to admit of any serious and protracted struggle over the educational question, and if serious it will certainly be protracted. Seeing this, we are naturally indisposed to discuss rival projects, both of which will probably be set aside for something much more efficient, and likely to be much more popular, by the next Parliament.

We may say, however, that we assent to that portion of the Duke's introductory address which casts doubt upon the statistics of destitution which have been so ostentatiously paraded of late. Unintentionally, of course, but misled by a strong desire to find facts corroborative of foregone conclusions, certain zealots in the cause of education have greatly exaggerated the existing deficiency of school provision, both in the great towns and in some of the rural districts. The present Parliament would greatly assist towards a solution of the question by its successor, if it were to frame and pass a measure for taking a complete educational census of the country between this and next year. At present, we are without any reliable data—for though the Duke of Newcastle's Commission pursued an exhaustive inquiry over certain areas, it is to be remembered that it could only carry it out in specimen districts, and that a complete educational map of the Kingdom, although indispensable to a fair judgment of any practical measure, is yet a desideratum, and will be so more especially when the Householders' Parliament take up the question.

Then, again, we concur with the Duke of Marlborough in thinking that, as we contem-

plate (whether wisely or not) dealing with the education of the people on a national scale, it will be far better to make it a department of State, presided over by a single responsible Minister, and pursuing its purposes in the usual way, by Acts of Parliament. We never liked the Privy Council machinery and methods. We do not think it has acted very impartially, and we are convinced that it has been browbeaten into courses which its officers could not very boldly resist, and could not conveniently set aside. It has had, at one and the same time, too little and too much authority, and although, on the whole, it has done its work with a fair measure of success, it was never, and is not now, fitted to take in charge a permanent national system. It was devised only for a tentative and provisional prosecution of a new enterprise, and ought now to give place to an organisation more in harmony with the other parts of the Constitution.

With regard to the Conscience Clause, and the supposed change which is to make it agreeable to all parties, we are not in the least anxious. The Householders, we suspect, will make short work with that—not without having right on their side. The spirit of the times is getting somewhat too robust to submit to clerical leading-strings where the distribution of public money is concerned, and all petty attempts at compromise, like those which so long delayed the abolition of Church-rates, will, at no very distant period, be swept away without ceremony. What we have to protest against most strongly is the hurried passing of some tinkered scheme by a Parliament incompetent to do justice to so large a subject—and therefore we say of the Duke of Marlborough's measure, as we said last week of Mr. Bruce's, that we hope it will not become law.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN.

At length the ill-omened expedition to Abyssinia is beginning to assume a better aspect, thanks rather to the energy of the Commander-in-Chief than of those who organised it at Bombay. The work of undoing being completed—the greater number of camp followers having been found to be an incumbrance and sent back to India, and the impedimenta, which, while ministering to the officers' comfort, hinder the march, reduced to the smallest proportions—Sir Robert Napier's force is ready for any emergency. We last hear of it—that is of the advanced brigade—at Attala, some sixty miles south of Antalo, and a short distance from Lake Ashangi, one of those great sheets of water so often found in the interior of Africa, though hardly known to exist before the present century. Antalo is the half-way resting-place between Zoulla and Magdala, and has been turned into a vast depot. There large supplies had been already collected. The country furnished only meat and flour. Everything else was brought from Annesley Bay, sent in carts through the mountain passes to Senafé, the intermediate depot, and thence forwarded on the backs of mules to Antalo. There are some two hundred miles of communications to be kept open in a strange and barbarous country, and the whole force of 12,000 men was scattered along this route, guarding the depôts, conveying provisions, and improving the roads. Until the very last this will be the chief work of the British army, and up to the middle of March, some three millions and a-half, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been sunk in this unique enterprise of bringing over the expedition from India and placing it along the line of roads that extends to Antalo and beyond.

So far as the information goes, it seems to bear out Sir Robert Napier's prediction that the expedition will have completed its work this season; that is, before the rains of June. His task has been greatly facilitated by the friendly relations established with Kassai, Prince of Tigré, the territory in which the advanced portion of the troops were at the latest dates encamped. Sir Robert's interview with that powerful chief seems to have had excellent results, and to have produced a strong impression on the Prince and his subjects. Though all efforts to induce the British Commander-in-Chief to become his ally, or even to furnish his troops with rifles, came to naught, Kassai has promised to continue to supply the expedition with provisions, and to prevent it from being molested on passing through his country. Gobazye, a still more potent chief at direct war with King Theodore, had also made similar offers. The province of Lasta, over which he rules, extends from the south of Lake Ashangi in the direction of Magdala. Perhaps by this time the advanced brigade has entered his country, and effected a junction with, or saved from defeat, the Wakschum's army, which

is too timid to meet Theodore in the field, or even to attack Magdala during his absence. Gobazye would, of course, have a far greater interest than Prince Kassai in supplying the wants of the British troops, and hastening their advance against his dreaded enemy.

Though the reports from the captives are somewhat obscure, there seems to be no doubt that Theodore is pursuing the course which is best adapted to further Sir R. Napier's ultimate object. His prisoners are all in Magdala, and fairly treated. According to current belief, he was confident enough in his own strength to resolve on risking an engagement with the invaders in the open field, instead of shutting himself up in his fortress, or retreating out of their reach. He was, therefore, in no haste to enter Magdala, and was leisurely engaged in dragging such ordnance as he possessed and his baggage through the mountain defiles, and possibly might not be at Magdala before the arrival of Sir Robert. Evidently he has little idea of the strength and resources of the enemy he was about to encounter, or he may rest secure in the hope that at the worst he could negotiate with the British for the surrender of his prisoners. But bad roads, a mountainous district, the length of his communications, and the necessity of concentration on nearing Magdala, would unite to impede Sir Robert's advance, and afford Theodore ample time for preparation, or for a change of his plans. A "dash" at Magdala by a force so destitute of military resources is not to be expected, especially with an enemy so wary and determined as King Theodore.

While this difficult problem of endeavouring for several months to follow a barbarian potentate through four hundred miles of an unknown African region is being solved, it cannot be said that either science or geography has materially gained by this hazardous expedition. Abyssinia, though for the most part fertile, is a thinly populated country, but the climate, beyond the belt of territory bordering on the Red Sea, seems to be salubrious and temperate. Like all countries where traces of volcanic action are observed, it abounds in romantic scenery and isolated and rugged hills called *ambas*, which are serviceable as fortified posts in the frequent wars of the chiefs. To the geologist and botanist Abyssinia is a rich mine of novelties, but its towns are paltry collections of huts, and its abundant resources undeveloped. The people are semi-barbarous, hospitable, but deficient in energy and industry. Nothing has more surprised them than the use of elephants as beasts of burden by our camp followers—the natives, though these animals abound in a wild state, never having had the sense or courage to tame them. There are many monuments of Christianity to be found in the shape of ruined churches, but the present religion of the population does not seem to be far removed from heathenism. When Prince Kassai was questioned by Sir Robert Napier, in their recent interview, as to the Abyssinian Scriptures, he was at a loss for a reply, and his followers declared to the English officers that their countrymen must be good Christians, or heaven would not give them intelligence to mould such destructive weapons. War is, in truth, the most honoured pursuit of the Abyssinians, who, unhappily, are the victims of rival chieftains ever at feud with each other, and desolating the country in their frequent raids. The romance that gathered about the ancient Ethiopia is dissipated on nearer acquaintance, and Theodore, so far from being a puissant Emperor, is only the nominal Sovereign of a dismembered kingdom, who rules his subjects by sheer terrorism. Our troops have found Abyssinia a prey to chronic anarchy, and will probably create new elements of discord in its midst, even should Theodore be dethroned, and his power for mischief destroyed. Happily, there is no inducement to occupy such a country, and probably the wishes of our troops will harmonise with the wise decision of the Home Government to abandon Abyssinia entirely as soon as the captives are rescued.

"USE IS SECOND NATURE."

THE force of habit is a theme on which, in all times, the preacher or moralist has loved to dwell. It is, so to speak, a power which Providence has placed in the hands of man wherewith he may, to a large extent, control his own destiny. By its aid he can conquer almost insuperable difficulties; by its agency he may surrender himself almost insensibly to the slavery of passion, lust, or circumstances. With whatever motives, aspirations, or impulses we may start in life, how often soever we may review, renew, or alter them, they sooner or later assume in their outward manifestation a routine form, and become almost unwittingly elevated or depressed by

the daily current of thoughts or events. Hardly any limit can be assigned to the influence which habit can exert on the mind and condition of the human race. In the one case it may gradually transform a man's character; in another it may make strength perfect in weakness; in a third it will vanquish easily-setting sins; in a fourth it will reconcile people to almost impossible conditions of life. It is a kind of *vis mediatrix* in the economy of life. It takes the sting out of poverty, and rubs the gilt off riches. It may give an easy mastery over evil tendencies, or bind those propensities with chains of iron around one's existence. To the man who wilfully surrenders himself to the seductions of pleasure, it will often smooth the pathway to ruin. By its cumulative force habit may transform a person anxious to get on in life into a hard and selfish mammon-worshipper. And to him who perseveringly seeks to ascend it makes the daily path so much easier and smoother that as he advances mountains are removed and valleys filled up.

Even in our physical existence habit reconciles us to almost any anomalies or vicissitudes. The well-known story of the Hindoo devotee, who for twenty years or more by way of penance laid upon a bed covered with iron spikes, forcibly illustrates this Providential law. The fanatic got so used to his unnatural habit that at last he could repose as comfortably on his strange couch as ordinary people on their beds. In the end, we doubt not, it would have been a great trial for him to return to the customary mode of rest. We read also of prisoners who have so long adapted themselves to the loss of freedom, that they have come to prefer the cell of the gaol to the freedom of the outside world, and of civilised men who by use have grown enamoured of savage life. The Hindoo prefers his meal of rice to the rich repast of his European master; the Parisian, who is used to public social life, despises the dulness of the English home, and almost every nation has a different standard of physical happiness. Most people require profound stillness for undisturbed sleep. Yet we read of Viscount Dundee who could enjoy a profound slumber of a few minutes while on horseback amid the activities of the camp; and the good people of Pontypool are reported to wake in uneasiness when the usually uninterrupted din of the huge steam-hammer by any accident ceases at night. A merciful Providence has given to all His creatures that power of adaptation to circumstances which springs from habit—so much so that "what's one man's meat is another man's poison." The young Arab who prowls about the street or plays in the back-alums, is by no means so worthy of commiseration as the refined passer-by might suppose. The dusky-coloured race with their rice and cabbages enjoy life with a zest to which highly-civilised mortals are strangers. In all these cases "use is second nature."

To ascend a step higher, while usage mitigates physical hardship, deadens pain, and gives a new colouring to all mundane events, it plays a prominent part even in early training. The wise teacher well knows its potent influence in giving the right bent to early aspirations, and enabling the young to make a good start in the journey of life. The practice of self-reliance, of consulting the wishes of others, of attacking difficulties instead of shrinking from them, of turning all capacities to account—how easy to form in early life, how powerful and self-acting a machinery for good when properly set going! Many a fatal indulgence owes its momentum, many a strong passion the intensity of its flame, to early habit. And when it is borne in mind that the tap-root of all such evil tendencies is selfishness, the importance of keeping such manifestations in check in tender years is apparent. Some people seem to regard early training as a means of developing whatever there may be in a child—good or bad; and not seldom the beneficial operation of home influences is counteracted by the habit of yielding to juvenile wants and whims. Spoilt children are those in whom for the most part it would have been just as easy at the outset to cultivate a taste for those simple pleasures which yield enjoyment without fostering artificial tastes, and in whom self-denial, if encouraged, would have become a comparatively easy habit. We hear so much in the present day of the paramount necessity of education—that is, instruction in the elements of knowledge—that there is more reason than ever to fear that the influence of moral training as an essential element in the formation of character is in danger of being lost sight of. It is a piteous spectacle to see a young man of fine parts and cultivated mind entering upon his career clogged with the evil propensities which the habit of self-indulgence has bound around him, and wasting his opportunities for lack of that early discipline which would have imparted strength and purpose to his life.

"Use is second nature." The maxim needs to be

well weighed by all who would to-morrow find themselves farther than to-day. Bad habits not only work ill to ourselves and others, but deteriorate one's nature, and obscure the moral sense. The tendency may be so indulged that the power of casting it off may almost cease. A man, for instance, may have so inveterate a habit of speaking loosely that at length he tells untruths without knowing it. Another may have contracted so confirmed a habit of looking at everything through the medium of self-interest, that disinterestedness becomes to him an unknown quality. A third may have so thoroughly given himself up to the habit of censoriousness, that he can fasten only upon the faults and foibles of others, and even their virtues are seen through a jaundiced medium. None are exempt from this danger, whatever their calling. The public man, be he politician, actor, singer, or what not, is liable to be weaned from the pure enjoyments of home, and in the constant tribute of applause to forget altogether the claims of others. Even the minister of the Gospel by the frequent iteration of the same truths is apt to throw a professional air around religion, and in danger of neglecting his own heart while cultivating the spiritual faculties of his hearers. And so on *ad infinitum*. This silent and almost unconscious growth of evil tendencies that are not rigorously checked, is one of the most solemn facts of life. Our moral sensibilities are slowly but surely worn down by such habits, as the rocks are worn by the ever-flowing Niagara river. "Is thy servant a dog, that he can do this thing?" was the incredulous and sincere expression of a man, whose growth in wickedness enabled him afterwards to commit great crimes without compunction.

How much habit may assist in overcoming obstacles that beset us in the right path, strengthening the weak points of our character, and making easy our advance in the Divine life, is a trite theme. With every onset successfully resisted, temptation loses its original force, and a naturally weak character may become strong by such frequent conquests. We wonder at the discipline and self-command which some men attain, forgetful of the fact that it is the outcome of a persistent habit of self-restraint which has kept down and almost extinguished irregular impulse and passion. Ripeness of Christian character is, indeed, always the result of quiet and constant but diminishing conflict. In climbing upwards towards heaven, the feeble steps grow strong by exercise, the rugged path is smooth to the active will, and the more elastic and ethereal atmosphere braces the nerves. Thus habit, at last, makes the journey easy, and one cloud after another that intercepted the rays of Divine love disperses as we ascend, till we breathe a pure atmosphere, and find all the powers of our nature acting in unison—the will obedient to the highest aspirations—the passions subjugated and made the handmaids of spiritual progress. And the gain thus secured is abiding and everlasting. It is our property in the life beyond the grave, when the conflict has ceased. Those that are nearest to God on earth will assuredly be nearest to Him in heaven.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

Fresh movements of a disturbing kind are reported. The *Patrie*, in connection with the military armaments, states that seditious placards have been posted at Rennes. Two young men had been arrested and charged with posting the placards, when, says the *Patrie*, "it was found that their object was to foment agitation." The riots against the Army Bill at Toulouse were as nothing compared with those that followed at Bordeaux, and which began by the arrest and trial of two or three young men for singing the "Marseillaise." On the day following the trial bands of men paraded the streets, carrying the red flag and singing the red song, and soundly beat those policemen and citizens who interfered with them. Several arrests were made, without, however, damping the ardour of the rioters. The equestrian statue of the Emperor, with "L'Empire c'est la paix" carved on the pedestal, was pelted with mire and otherwise insulted. The young men who had been liberated from military service, but who are now required to serve in the Garde Mobile, presented themselves before the Council of Revision, each with a carrot in his button-hole, in token of having been deceived by the Government. The *Journal du Havre* states that the young men in every canton near Havre called upon to serve are most ingenious in preferring excuses. Phthisis, short sight, amaurosis, and deafness are pressed with an earnestness which gives great trouble to the recruiting board. The *Gironde* of March 20 says that the young men called upon to present themselves before the council of revision were extremely "backward in coming forward." The *Journal du Cher* mentions riotous proceedings among the recruits summoned at Nerondes.

The hostile spirit which the Army Bill has awakened in many points of France strengthens the confidence of

the Democratic party that the present régime is near its end. On the other hand, the clerical party appears to be becoming reconciled to the Government in spite of M. Duruy's educational measures; the clergy are satisfied with M. Pinard, and if the Minister of the Interior will only continue to be strictly conservative, he will receive the whole support of the Church.

At Wednesday's sitting of the Legislative Body the debate upon the Public Meetings Bill was resumed. After Art. 9 had been voted, the House adopted the entire bill by 209 votes to twenty-two. The orders of the day being thus finished, the Chamber adjourned on the motion of the President. The date of the next sitting is not fixed.

The committee of the Legislative Body has declared in favour of authorising proceedings against M. de Kerveguen. The Chamber has agreed with the conclusion of the committee.

The editors of the *Figaro* and the *Situation* have been sentenced for writing articles disrespectful to the Legislative Body, the former to a fine of 1,000*fr.*, the latter to two months' imprisonment and 5,000*fr.* fine. Unfortunately, these judgments come too late for incorporation with "The Titles of the Dynasty."

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies has not finished the discussion of the financial measures of the Government, during which the Finance Minister has had to fight hard for the grinding-tax. Signor Correnti, speaking in the name of the third party, declared that they could only accept the grinding-tax as the ultimate complement of radical reforms, and of other measures destined to restore the public credit and a financial equilibrium. The third party had lately supported the Government, but it could never consent to an alliance with the Church. He also repelled any idea of reducing the interest on the public debt as being dishonourable, and ruinous to Italian credit. The Budget of 1869 had been presented.

A very unpleasant and ominous telegram from Bologna states that the Minister of Public Instruction has temporarily closed the University, in consequence of a demonstration having been made by the students against the Minister's suspension of three Professors for having publicly expressed Republican sentiments. A later telegram states that the University is again open.

The police have arrested at Perugia a Bourbon agent on his way to Rome, with 20,000 francs and important papers relative to Bourbon intrigues in Southern Italy.

The remains of Daniel Manin were conveyed by water on Saturday evening from the railway to the Church of San Zaccaro at Venice, followed by State barges, with representatives from the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the Members of the Venetian municipality, and foreign Commissioners. An immense number of gondolas also followed. The Grand Canal and all the boats in the procession were illuminated, forming a magnificent spectacle. The houses displayed mourning draperies.

It seems as if the Royal marriage that is to be celebrated at Turin on the 22nd of next month really gives great and general satisfaction in Italy.

General Garibaldi has sent a letter from Caprera to the American Minister at Florence, in which he says he hears that Mr. Seward has included his (the general's) name among the agents of the "Great Republic." As he never had the honour, he begs the Minister to cause his name to be erased from the list.

In the recent encounters in the provinces of Terra di Lavoro and of Malino, the brigand bands of Pace and Ciccone were decimated and dispersed.

Another French brigade in the Papal States has been ordered to return to France. The remaining brigade, it is stated, will be concentrated at Civita Vecchia. Colonel d'Argy, the commander of the Antibes Legion, had returned to Rome from Paris.

PRUSSIA.

The North German Parliament was opened at Berlin on the 23rd by the King of Prussia in person. His Majesty, in his speech from the throne, announced the further development of the domestic institutions which had recently been founded; mentioned the modification of the postal arrangements with several countries; expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the representatives of the North German Confederation had been received at foreign Courts; and in conclusion he said he was convinced that the blessings of peace would rest upon the labours of the Parliament.

Dr. Simson was re-elected President by a large majority. Duke Ujest, first, and Herr von Bennigsen, second, Vice-Presidents.

At Berlin, Prince Napoleon, *incog.*, has been succeeded as a distinguished visitor by the heir of the Russian throne, not *incog.* The Government have thought it worth while to issue a diplomatic circular to announce that the French Prince had no political mission. Though absent, Count Bismark is not forgotten. The King has made him hereditary member of the Upper House.

The Prussian Government is preparing to abolish the duties on many products of useful manufacture and articles of domestic use, and to make up the deficit in the revenue by an increased tax on tobacco.

AUSTRIA.

There have been important debates in the Upper House of the Reichsrath on the Civil Marriages Bill, which was vigorously opposed by Cardinal Schwarzenburg and other notables, but carried on Saturday by 69 to 34 votes—a much larger majority than was expected. It was supported in admirable speeches by Count Auersperg and Herr von Schmerling. On the same evening Vienna was spontaneously illuminated. Immense crowds congregated in the streets, and

made enthusiastic demonstrations in front of the residences of some of the Ministers, as also in front of the monument of Francis Joseph II. No disturbances nor accidents occurred.

Cardinal Rauscher and his friends have sent a letter to the President stating that in consequence of the vote of Saturday on the Civil Marriages Bill, they can no longer take any part in the debates in the Upper House. That Assembly does not seem to have been much moved by this protest, for it proceeded at once to pass the bill through its remaining stages, and only seventeen members were found to vote against the measure.

In a recent sitting of the committee of the Upper House upon the Public Schools Bill the majority agreed to all the principal features of the bill as passed by the Lower House. The minority propose that the bill should be referred to a committee, which should be instructed to draw up a new bill, having for its basis the preservation of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church over the religious and moral education of the young, and the maintenance of the denominational system in the popular middle schools.

The Delegation of the Hungarian Diet have agreed to all the resolutions of the Austrian Delegation which differed from their own. A complete agreement has now been brought about between the two respecting all the items of the common budget for 1868. The respective bodies have adjourned.

In the Reichsrath Assembly Baron von Beust announced the Imperial sanction to the resolutions adopted by the Delegation, adding that he was commissioned by the Emperor to express his Majesty's satisfaction at, and grateful recognition of, their labours. By endorsing the decisively-expressed peace policy of the Government, the two bodies had imparted to that policy a redoubled emphasis. The President of the Delegation then delivered the closing speech, in which he laid stress upon the fact that peace was based upon the establishment of a constitutional state of things, and upon the concord existing between the national representatives and the Crown.

The Austrian Minister of Finance is setting about the work of retrenchment. He proposes, among other measures, the sale of State lands and the levying of a property tax.

The *New Free Press* learns, though the report is probably unfounded, that the French Cabinet has announced its intention of inviting very shortly the signatories of the Vienna Treaties of 1815 to take into consideration whether and what steps in common ought to be taken relative to the late acts of Russia, whereby the Kingdom of Poland has ceased to exist.

The new Army Bill divides the military strength of Austria into the line, the landwehr, and the landsturm (*levée en masse*). The regiments of the line are to be under the control of the Minister of War of the Empire, and the landwehr under the control of the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers of War.

AMERICA.

An Atlantic cable telegram brings word that the impeachment trial came on on the 23rd before the Senate. President Johnson's counsel filed an answer denying all the impeachment charges. They also applied for a delay of thirty days to prepare for the trial. The Senate refused this application by forty-one votes against twelve. The House of Representatives have filed a reply to the answer of President Johnson to the charges of impeachment. This reply reaffirms all the impeachment charges. The Senate Court has ordered the trial to commence on Monday next.

President Johnson has vetoed the bill prohibiting appeals from the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court.

Attorney-General Stanberry has resigned his post, stating as his reason that his participation in the defence of Mr. Johnson would engross his entire time. The President has accepted the resignation, and appointed Secretary Browning to act as Attorney-General *pro tem*.

The returns from the New Hampshire elections are nearly complete, and show a reduction of 700 from a Republican majority of last year.

The New York papers of the 12th mention that the Supplemental Reconstruction Bill, providing that elections under the reconstruction laws shall be decided by the majority of the votes cast, became law on that day, the President not having signed or vetoed the bill within the allotted time. The Senate had confirmed the nominations of Mr. J. Ross Browne as Minister to China, and Mr. Charles K. Tuckerman as Minister to Greece.

The 24th was the day fixed for the trial of Mr. Jefferson Davis before the United States' Circuit Court at Richmond. The probabilities were, however, that there would be another postponement, as Chief Justice Chase, owing to the impeachment trial, would be unable to hold a circuit court at Richmond, and had so stated. Mr. Davis, therefore, will be still untried; and, what is remarkable, his principal judge is prevented from trying the President of the Confederate States by being called upon to try the President of the United States.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Lady Lawrence left Calcutta on the 25th February, for England. Dr. Norman Macleod, who is returning home on account of ill-health, accompanies her.

An American correspondent writes under date of the 6th inst.:—"Fourteen thousand destitute persons have been fed at the police-stations in New York since the 19th February."

Such is the state of famine in Finland that those who were employed to carry relief to the sufferers

have found several villages without a living inhabitant, the corpses of the poor starved creatures lying unburied in the streets and houses.

A letter from Cannes, dated the 14th of this month, says, "Our weather is lovely. We have no fire, and the windows yesterday were open till a quarter to six o'clock. Roses and all sorts of beautiful flowers are in bloom: among others, the Westeria and scarlet passion-flower."

POLAND.—An Imperial decree, dated the 29th February, has been made public, by which the Government Commission for Internal Affairs in the Kingdom of Poland is abolished, and its administrative jurisdiction is handed over to the respective authorities of the empire. The complete union of the province of the kingdom of Poland with the other portions of the empire is hereby effected.

A SINGULAR CASE OF CUMULATIVE PENALTIES occurred at Macclesfield a few days ago. A fishmonger was summoned for having on sale a quantity of shrimps in a decomposed state and unfit for human food. The police inspector said he had counted the shrimps, that there were 2,040, and that defendant being liable to pay a fine of 20*fr.* for each shrimp, the total amount of the penalties would be 40,800*fr.* The magistrates fined the lucky fishmonger twenty shillings only.

THE ANNEXATION OF THE BASUTO TERRITORY.—We learn by the recent Cape mail that the communications addressed by Governor Sir P. E. Wodehouse, to Mosheh, the Basuto chief, and to the President of the Free State, notifying the intention of the Englishment Government to receive Basutos under its protection, have been very differently received. The Basutos were very jubilant, but President Brand had refused to grant a cessation of hostilities, and had gone to the front to push on the operations of his commanders against the Basutos.

THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE ALABAMA claims question on the 6th of March attracts universal attention here. The press agents attempted to send the full report of it from the *Times* of the 7th, through the Atlantic cable, but after sending some 3,000 words the wires broke down, and for the remainder recourse had to be had to a summary previously received. The friendly tone of the discussion gives great satisfaction, and inspires renewed hope of an early settlement of the controversy. —*Letter from America.*

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR.—Queen Rasoheryna is seriously ill, suffering from diabetes, and the people are beginning to think of a successor. It is reported that there are three different parties, each having a successor in view in case of the Queen's death, and each prepared to grasp the crown. Prince Ramonjy, the brother of the Queen, who died a few months ago, was heir to the throne, and would in all probability have succeeded her. Some suppose the Queen's sister will follow; but the truth, on all occasions difficult to be obtained, cannot be ascertained at present.

CARDINAL BONAPARTE has received the title of the same church as was conferred on Cardinal Wiseman on his creation, that of Santa Pudenzia. The future duties of his Eminence are comprised in the attributes of the four sacred congregations of which the Pope has decided that he shall henceforward make part. Cardinal Bonaparte has taken up his residence at the family palace on the Piazza di Venezia, and commenced the routine existence of a Roman cardinal, which national classification is the more important for his future career, as it qualifies him for election to the Papal throne.

A FINE TRAIT OF ABYSSINIAN CHARACTER is mentioned in a story told by the correspondent of a contemporary. The natives, it appears, have a great objection to our foraging parties helping themselves to grass and wood, though they do not mind supplying us with forage at a good profit. They have had many quarrels with our men on this subject, and more than one fight. On one occasion a number of Hindoo camp-followers were found gathering up the dry wood in a sacred field. A priest appeared, and called on them as Christians to desist, when the Hindoos made some gestures of contempt or abhorrence at the name of Christians. The priest and his followers then fell upon them, and a struggle ensued. The Hindoos then retired on the camp, and the Abyssinians followed; and their priest was seized by a camp policeman and taken before Sir Robert Napier. Sir Robert, after investigating the whole matter, ordered the Hindoos a dozen lashes a-piece for insulting the religion of the people. "But here the Abyssinians really showed themselves to be Christians, for the priest and his witnesses, all of whom bore marks of having suffered in the skirmish, knelt down, and said they would not rise until the culprits were forgiven, which accordingly they were."

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

Sir Stafford Northcote has received the following telegrams from Sir Robert Napier:—

CAMP, ARRANNIM, Feb. 16.—Prince Kassal met me yesterday with about 10,000 followers. His demeanour was extremely friendly. We conversed together for many hours, and our intercourse was most gratifying and satisfactory. The Prince accompanied me in the afternoon to a parade of my troops, after which himself and his army escorted me to the Prince's own tent, where the Prince entertained me till night. He has promised to arrange for the supply of necessaries to our army. I am about to arrange this important matter with the Prince's brothers, and shall march to-day towards Antalo.

ANTALO, March 2.—I arrived here to-day with the wings of four regiments and four horsed guns of G Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery. The advance column moves towards Achaangi to-morrow, the 3rd of March.

The special correspondent of the *Times* sends the following telegram, under date Antalo, March 8:—"The advanced guard has arrived at Attala, about twenty miles north of Lake Ashangi. The roads are extremely bad. A detachment is opening a mule road. The only provisions to be found in the country are flour and meat. The headquarters will be at Ashangi by the middle of March. All well."

Advices received at Suez (date not given) state that King Theodore was entrenched on the Talanta plateau, and that he intended giving battle. The 5th Brigade was to advance on Ashangi on the 11th of March. Nearly all the troops are now on the high lands. Large supplies have been collected in the neighbourhood of Antalo. Letters from an officer at headquarters state that Theodore was said to have thirteen guns in Magdala, and was storing the place with provisions. He was also said to have 10,000 disciplined troops, and to be quite determined to fight. The British officers and men were anxious to storm the fortress.

Summarising the last intelligence by letter, the *Times* dwells upon the importance of the interview above referred to, the road to Magdala passing through the territory of the Prince of Tigre. If he supports the expedition till it meets Theodore, he will have given it the assistance it most urgently needs. The question of provisioning the army is the most difficult of all.

To organise transport and to supply food are the chief problems which beset the commander. The country is described by every writer as thinly peopled and ill-supplied with provisions. The road passes desolate tracts, where for miles no trace of human cultivation appears; sometimes a village of hovels comes in sight, sometimes a few wretched shepherds may be espied tending a scanty flock. Such is the general description, and it is probably correct in its main outlines, even if somewhat over-coloured. In these almost barbarous countries the European is always struck with the aspect of what seems to him desolation. The inhabitants are so few in comparison with the extent of land, they live so meanly, their culture is so poor and primitive, that the first impulse of a stranger is to wonder whether it will be possible to get enough to eat. But experience teaches that there is more to be had than appears at first sight. Money and local knowledge produce almost miraculous effects in drawing supplies from the most unpromising district. An able native always manages to find something, and to get it; he bribes, bullies, begs, perhaps steals, but the supply is forthcoming. Sheep, cattle, fowls, and other provisions make their appearance, and after immense bargaining and quarrelling, the natives depart with their money, apparently not ill-satisfied, for they are ready to come again and repeat the traffic. If the agent be a powerful personage, the process is all the more easy. For these reasons we regard with satisfaction the goodwill of such a person as Kassai, since not only will it give safety to the line of communication, but his influence may help the army in its greatest difficulty, that of finding food for man and beast.

Another important step has been taken by Sir Robert Napier. He has given orders for the return of nearly all the Indian followers to Zoulla, whence those who cannot be usefully employed will be shipped for Bombay.

Only those are kept who are employed in hospitals, sick carriage, and other necessary duties, for which, if they were not kept, soldiers would have to be taken from the ranks. By this sweeping order the mouths to be fed will be diminished by some 5,000, for not less than this is the number of followers who have been transported by Sir Robert Napier across the ocean and up to the highlands of Africa, in accordance with the Oriental traditions of the Anglo-Indian service. It is not unreasonable to ask why this resolution was not taken before—why all the expense and delay caused by the presence of these thousands of grooms and servants have been incurred, though the nature of the country, the difficulties of transport, and the deficiency of provision must have been known from the first. We learn that the troopers are, contrary to Indian practice, to groom their own horses, and that, not only in men, but in baggage, there is to be a general reduction. From Antalo onward each officer will be limited to seventy-five pounds weight, and each soldier to twenty-five pounds, including bedding. A European battalion which, according to Indian regulations, would have 1,200 mules for the carriage of its baggage and 600 followers, inclusive of muleteers, will, under the new regulations, march efficient with 187 mules, and with under 100 followers. Thus at last there is a prospect of a more hopeful campaign.

Of the interview referred above between Prince Kassai and Sir Robert Napier the correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—

Shortly before one o'clock, the hour appointed for the durbar, a deputation, consisting of Major Grant, C.B., Captain Moore (interpreter to the Commander-in-Chief), Captain Speedy, and Mr. Mertcha, the Abyssinian gentleman sent by Kassai to act as his agent in the English camp, rode up the hill to the Abyssinian army to conduct the King into the presence of Sir Robert Napier. That nothing might be wanting which could in any way add effect to the spectacle, the deputation was attended by the 3rd Light Cavalry as a body-guard. The ceremony of introduction over, and the compliment of the day passed, a herald or aide-de-camp, whose insignia were a ponderous-looking bracelet of burnished brass, and a still more ponderous-looking crown of polished tin, appeared in front of the royal marquee and gave the order for the formation of the line of march. Hereupon the drum-ticks were plied with redoubled vigour, and the ranks were literally "licked" into shape by officers of various degrees, the mules on which the band rode taking up their position in front. Immediately behind them were drawn up the flower of Kassai's army, many of them old and scarred, and for the most part better armed than one was prepared to find them. Their arms were of the most miscellaneous kind, double-barrelled fowling-pieces, single-barrelled ditto, clumsy but formidable blunderbuses, carbines, swords, spears, and Penang lawyers. Their uniform possessed uniformity only in its scantiness and filthiness.

Next came the King himself, mounted on a mule, on which the weight of royalty pressed heavily, a pink umbrella being the only bauble which distinguished the sovereign from the subject. The 3rd Light Cavalry followed, their gay uniforms of blue and silver, their spirited horse, and their compactness, contrasting strongly with the tag-rag appearance of the Ethiopians; and the rear was brought up by a long horizontal column of Tigre irregulars, cavalry and infantry mingling indiscriminately. Yet the three or four thousand Abyssinians could hardly be termed a rabble; a certain amount of order was maintained, and there was no straggling. At the foot of the hill there was a stream, on the further bank of which Sir Robert Napier, on a gaily caparisoned elephant, awaited the arrival of his guest, on whose approach he mounted his horse, and accompanied him to the durbar tent. His Majesty exhibited unmistakable signs of trepidation, which a *feu de joie* from the well-rammed Enfields of the 10th Bombay Infantry, followed by a salute from the Armstrongs, did not tend to allay; yet his part of the conversation was kept up with a readiness, and betrayed a sharpness which few expected. On Sir Robert expressing a hope that the Prince did not feel fatigued with his journey from Adowa, the happy reply was ready, "that he would never feel fatigued with a journey to meet a friend"; and a eulogistic remark regarding the beauty and fertility of the country, if only it had peace to allow its development, evoked the reminder that its present ruler had only just come into possession, and that not Christians, but Mussulmans, were responsible for its present condition. The desire of the English to be friends with the Abyssinians, whom they recognised as brother Christians, was courteously acknowledged; but at the same time it was added that the Abyssinians did not desire foreigners to visit their country; if, however, foreigners did come, they would far rather see Christians and friends than heretics and enemies. When, with a view, perhaps, to avoid strictly political topics, Sir Robert neatly attempted to lead the conversation in the direction of the authenticity and oneness of the English and part of the Abyssinian Scriptures, his Majesty was for the first time at fault for a reply.

After the durbar a review of the troops was held, in order that the assembled multitude might see the drill and tactics of the strange army which they regarded with such curiosity and wonder, and the uses to which they might be put, should occasion require. The imaginary enemy having been put to flight, the proceedings of the day terminated in the English camp, and commenced in that of the Abyssinians. The King was accompanied to his tent by Sir Robert Napier and staff and a large number of officers, who—doing in Rome as the Romans did—squatted on a cloth on the floor, and ate and drank of the daintiest of Abyssinian cheer, asking no questions as to how these good things came there, or whence.

Kassai is quite a young man of, I should say, about eight-and-twenty; and in appearance he is younger still by four or five years. He is of slender build; and his features, though regular and pleasing, are indicative of that indecision which is said to be a trait of his character. He has been but such a short time in his present position that it is impossible to say whether he or his advisers actually hold the reins of government; but, unless his looks belie his character, a stronger and steadier hand than his must guide the coach; troublesome times supervene, which it is more than probable will be the case before long, if events in the south do not keep Wakshum Gobazye's attention fully occupied in that quarter. After the public durbar was over Sir Robert Napier and the young king had a private conference, at which we may be sure his excellency did not let slip any legitimate opportunity that presented itself to impress upon his guest that the sure way to ward off dangers from without is to look well to the things within; and if Kassai does this, and welds the affections of his people securely to him by so ruling as to ensure contentment and prosperity, there is power enough in Tigre to make even the restless and hostile Wakshum think twice before dashing himself against it.

Respecting the Wakshum, the correspondent of the *Telegraph* writes:—

Some messengers from the Wakshum Gobazye came in here on the 26th, bearing a letter of a most highly satisfactory tone. After the usual compliments to the Commander-in-Chief, whose name he did not know, and to all the English, he went on to say that he himself had gone down into Begmeder, and towards Debra Tabor and Gondar, to raise more soldiers; that, having done so, he would immediately return to meet us; that, in the meantime, he had ordered Walda Jasous, the chief of Wojerat, the district in which this place is situated, to be civil to us, and to do all in his power to assist us in every way; that he had left three generals and a number of men at Ashangi to improve the roads, and that he had issued orders to all his head men and people to collect grain and supplies of all sorts, for us to purchase all along the line of march. If he is only as good as his word, he will indeed prove a useful ally. Probably he is vying with Kassai, and he will do all he can to obtain our friendship. Judged by his letter, he would appear the most sensible man we have yet had to do with; and the arrival long ago at Dolo of presents and compliments from Walda Jasous would look as though he were in earnest in what he says. Here, then, we have a man anxious to assist us, through whose country we shall march nearly the whole of the way to Magdala, and who has an army probably quite capable of defeating Theodore unassisted, if it were not for the extraordinary dread in which he is held by the natives.

PROVINCIAL WORKHOUSES.

(From the *Star*.)

A terrible picture of the condition of many of the provincial workhouses was drawn by the Archbishop of York, on Saturday, at the interview of the deputation from the Workhouse Infirmaries Association with the President of the Poor-law Board. At Chesterfield Workhouse, for instance, said his grace, quoting from the official inspector's report, some of the beds in the infirmary are so near together as almost to touch, the rain drips through the ventilators in the ceiling on to the floor, and in one instance on to the bed. There are no proper chairs, dining-tables, or tablecloths; in

one ward seven dirty and neglected children were found eating their dinners on the floor; the medicines are handed over to the patients themselves, who take them or not as they are inclined; there are no proper means of washing the sick, and only one towel a week is allowed for use in each ward. In the same infirmary an imbecile patient was lately beaten to death by a pauper wardman for some trifling act of negligence. In the Shardlow union there is no classification even of the sexes; at Ashton-under-Lyne the convalescent sick share the lunatic day-room, confinements take place in the general sick wards, and the fever wards are used for itch and other disgusting diseases. This state of things is more or less common to the Blackburn, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Clitheroe, the Fylde, Harlingden, Oldham, and Preston workhouses. His grace recommended that the reforms which have been made in the management of the London workhouses should be extended to those in the provinces; that the sick poor should be separated from the able-bodied paupers; that in lieu of sick wards annexed to each workhouse, consolidated infirmaries managed on the hospital system, should be provided; that from 1,000 to 1,500 cubic feet of air should be allowed to each patient; that nursing should be conducted by a trained staff, with one assistant nurse for each fifty patients; that there should be a resident medical officer to every 250 patients—the medical officer to have no pecuniary interest in the medicines dispensed; and that Lord Devon should seek from Parliament powers to enforce a code of regulations for the government of infirmary establishments, and to appoint an auxiliary corps of medical inspectors. Mr. Ernest Hart suggested that these inspectors should report specifically like the gentleman just quoted. There were reports and reports, and most of the stock phrases in use by inspectors were mere euphemisms, covering a multitude of workhouse sins. Inspectors were too fond of reporting in adjectives; thus what they called "insufficient attendance" meant neglect of giving the sick their proper diets, leaving them to their own help or no help, mixing the convalescent sick who needed rest and quiet with noisy lunatics; "inadequate" and "insufficient" stood for the evils which had been exposed in connection with the Bedminster Union; the scrubbing of hands black with gangrene as if they were black with dirt, the killing of an infant by accidentally placing it in scalding water, and then rubbing off the blisters with a towel, &c., &c. The Earl of Devon, in reply to the deputation, said that the Legislature was not always ready to give the Board powers over guardians, for fear of strengthening centralisation. He acknowledged the value of the recommendations of the Infirmary Committee, and said that many of them were already embodied in the bill he should propose for second reading on Monday night.

RATING OF CHARITIES AND SCHOOLS.—A deputation of more than ordinary weight and influence waited upon the Prime Minister on Tuesday to lay before him the hardship inflicted upon all institutions of an eleemosynary character, such as hospitals and schools, by the departure from the ancient principle that all such places should be exempted from parochial taxation—a principle which has been upset by a recent judicial decision in the Mersey Docks case. Not only the metropolis, but the cities of Bristol, Birmingham, Derby, Gloucester, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Northampton, Newcastle, Sheffield, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and Worcester, were all largely represented. The Earl of Harrowby introduced the deputation as one which represented nearly all the charities in England and Scotland. The Duke of Cambridge, as President of Christ's Hospital, first addressed the Premier, and was followed by Dr. Manning, Messrs. Lingham, Gurney, Hoare, Baines, M.P., &c. Alderman Salomons, M.P., represented the Jews' schools; Dr. Sele, vicar of Sheffield, the ragged schools; Mr. Thomas, the Bristol charities; and the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, the charities and schools of Birmingham. Mr. Disraeli said the subject was deeply interesting to the Government, and he was sure also to every person in the country. He had listened with great interest to the statements those around him had made in illustration of the principles they would enforce; but he had other duties to perform in an assembly not always so agreeable as this, and in another place, where his presence was greatly looked for. (A laugh.) Before he went, however, he would say that he thanked those who had attended for drawing the attention of the Government to a social question undoubtedly of great importance. The statements which had been made that day should be considered in a spirit adequate to the occasion and to the importance of that assemblage. (Cheers.)

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—In East Kent, Mr. E. Leigh Pemberton, jun., is adopted as the Conservative candidate, and Mr. Tufton, a son of Sir Richard Tufton, stands in the Liberal interest. For South Lincolnshire, Mr. Welby, at present M.P. for Grantham, aspires to succeed Sir T. Trollope. For Grantham two candidates are announced, viz., Mr. Edmund Turner (Conservative), and Mr. H. A. H. Cholmely (Liberal). Lord Amberley is spoken of as a Liberal candidate for South Devon at the next election. The nomination for Coventry took place on Wednesday. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Hill, the Conservative. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Carter, the Liberal, who at one o'clock yesterday was some 300 votes ahead of his antagonist.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD.—Number of patients for the week ending March 21, 1,093, of which 398 were new cases.

Literature.

D'ARCY THOMPSON ON
"EDUCATION."

In the present state of public opinion on all subjects affecting education—a state largely transitional and for the time chaotic—we cannot but welcome the work of a writer like Mr. D'Arcy Thompson, who gives us the results of a very large experience as to some of the many questions involved. He does not enter extensively into the subject of State interference, but it is sufficiently evident that, while deprecating "an interference so extensive, an interference such as would destroy all individual free action," he belongs to a class of thinkers who are bent on extending the province of Government far beyond what sound political principle and due regard to the liberty of the subject would justify. "The addition" (he says) "of a minister of education to our own Government would be an incalculable blessing, if, for a while, his duties were limited to the protection of the health and morals of young children against the ignorance and immorality of ignorant and immoral parents; to the enforcement of elementary instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic upon every boy in the empire; to the exaction of certificates of instruction in the elementary laws that regulate mental and physical health from all clergymen, schoolmasters, and governesses, and in the elements of agriculture and political economy from all heirs or purchasers succeeding to or entering upon any estate, the extent or populousness of which might render the right management a matter of public moment." We are exceedingly glad that teachers of this doctrinaire school should thus give us distinct intimations of what they desire. One of our great dangers at present arises from the attempts of well-meaning, but as we think mistaken, men to teach the people to rely upon the State rather than upon themselves, and it is a danger which the more popular character of the Legislature of the future may increase rather than diminish. It is well, therefore, to understand whither this movement, the first expression of which is in the demand for compulsory education, is leading us, and whatever course we take to take it warily, with a clear perception of the probable issues. The favourite notion with many is that we have by an exaggerated individualism and love of independence deprived ourselves, as a nation, of many advantages which a wiser course might have secured, and that we are in the rear when we might be in the van of civilisation and progress by our stupid adherence to our insular crotchets. Possibly there may be some truth in such a view. We, at least, are not prepared to deny that there are many points in which we may gain wisdom from our Continental neighbours; but the question, after all, is how we may secure the advantage without sacrificing that freedom of individual life and action which the wisest continentals admire, and would gladly see among themselves.

But it is not with questions of this order, but with those of a more practical character, as to proper modes of education, that Mr. D'Arcy Thompson principally deals, and on which his judgment is entitled to special weight and authority. Educated at one of our great public schools in London, and afterwards at the University of Cambridge, subsequently a schoolmaster at Edinburgh, and a professor at the Queen's College in Galway, he has had a variety of experience which does not fall to the lot of many, and having a remarkably clear, independent, and vigorous intellect, he takes broad and enlightened views, which he expounds and enforces with a power of reasoning that could not be possessed by any mere theorist criticising the grammar of the heads of our public schools, men of the highest eminence in their profession, and whose heads are "unquestionably crammed with learning." He says, "the grounds upon which I venture to speak my opinion in the strongest and most unqualified terms are, firstly, that whilst in natural abilities and acquired learning I may be vastly inferior to every one of the compilers of the 'New Latin Catechism, or Manual of Darkness,' in industry, zeal, and enthusiastic love of classical studies, I am on a par with any one of them; and, secondly, that in the first twelve of my fifteen years of scholastic life I was engaged for three hours—in other words, for half my time of daily work—during five days of the week, over ten months in the year, with an elementary class of boys, varying in number from forty to seventy; and thirdly, that even

"during the last three years I have had in the management of an Alpha Beta class one fourth part of my professional duties." Such a man has a right to speak in relation to practical work, and his suggestions must command a respect very different from that which would be accorded to one who, like Mr. Lowe, has only looked at the question in his study.

With his own experience of the public school system as here recorded, we do not wonder that Mr. Thompson very early felt the necessity of change. His first six years he considers to have been employed so unprofitably that "the concluding six months might, with good teachers and sensible methods, have produced as good or as bad a result." His estimate of his acquisitions is thus tersely and cleverly put:—

"Naked came I into St. Edward's—literally naked; for I was stripped to the skin, and reclad in my blue regimentals. Naked came I in; and what am I carrying out in my carpet bag? Let us examine; one very great friendship and some few lesser ones; affectionate and grateful recollections of three masters and friends; and some mathematics and French stowed away neatly and compactly, and a great lot of classics rather confusedly huddled together; and bless me! in among the classics has tumbled a deal of alcaic sawdust, hexametrical cinders, iambic chaff, and other intellectual marine stores. Well, never mind; if these latter are of no earthly use in the outer world, they are highly valued at the University of Camelot to which I am proceeding; so we may just as well take care of them for three more years, and then we may with safety throw them all away into the eternal dustbin."

While the intellectual acquisitions were so small, the process by which even that little was obtained was in many respects far from pleasant. The tyranny exercised by many of the elder boys over their juniors was nothing better than unmitigated brutality. We hope that in this respect, the tone of most of our public schools has improved. In a large community, of course, it is all but impossible to guard altogether against the excesses of boys of cruel temper; but it is to be feared that there has often been no attempt to awaken that sentiment in the school which is the best preventive against them. The system of flogging is under any circumstances, bad, but, unless there be the check of sound public opinion among the boys themselves to repress tyrannical tendencies, it is sure to degenerate into an instrument of barbarity and oppression. The religious training of the school was certainly not calculated to develop true religious feeling. But the Sundays appear to have left a vivid impression on the mind of the writer, who tells us that even now he shudders at the recollection of them. Psalms, hymns, and prayer at eight o'clock, two hours of morning service in which, as the poor children had to kneel on hard boards with no rest for arms or heads, the "misery of the Litany was beyond all words"—"a very Sahara of tribulation"; a long service of reading, psalmody and prayer before dinner and an hour of catechism immediately afterwards; then afternoon service, followed by another long exercise before the evening meal, a third sermon from the head master, and finally evening prayers in the ward, "appropriately closed with a singing of the Burial Anthem," made up a Sunday which the annals of Puritan strictness could hardly surpass. "I had as much of religious instruction squandered 'on myself' (says our author) 'as, if judiciously distributed, would have turned a whole regiment of dragoons into missionaries.'" If any religion survived such a process as that here described it, was marvellous indeed. We trust there are few places where this kind of things survives. Mr. Thompson thinks it a necessary consequence of the gathering of children in "unwholesome multitudes where any imitation of domesticity is impossible in the heart of a great city where a cheerful walk is denied." To keep them out of mischief you must have the treadmill week-days and Sundays alike. Perhaps so: but his conclusion, we fancy, would be the same as ours, not to keep the treadmill, but to alter the charter and arrangements of the institutions which seem to necessitate its existence.

When, instead of a scholar, our author became a classical master himself, he sought to profit by a better experience and introduce reforms, but he soon found that even intellectual Edinburgh "would prefer a more conservative, go-in-strings, imitative, plastic schoolmaster," and all that his sincere enthusiasm and disinterested labours earned for him was a hint to resign. His zeal, however, in the work of education, did not abate, and his desire to point out some more excellent way than that adopted in the majority of schools, has led to the production of the present eminently practical and suggestive volume. A few years ago his opinions would have been denounced almost unanimously as revolutionary, but the rapid advances of opinion on some of the points he treats will secure for him more sympathy and attention now. The doom of Latin and Greek

verse is almost sealed, and while the position of classical studies in the work of education will doubtless be materially changed, the mode in which they are conducted must also be greatly modified. As helping to bring about so desirable a reform, Mr. Thompson's book is calculated to be very useful, and the more so, because it does not run into the common extreme of unduly depreciating special studies, because they have hitherto been cultivated too exclusively. By parents and all interested in the work of education his practical views cannot be too carefully studied. But beyond its value in this respect, the work derives a great charm from the vivid sketches and anecdotes interspersed throughout the whole, which prevent us from feeling that we are simply wandering wearily through dull and tedious dissertations.

We wish we had room for lengthened extracts from the chapter on "our home civilisation," which is full of matter for grave and serious reflection. We must not, however, omit reference to his observations on Ireland, as they throw some light on the working of the Irish Church system in one particular direction—the education of the middle classes. Everywhere it is in the most unsatisfactory condition, notwithstanding the ample provision made, but which, under existing arrangements, is all but wasted. "There are funds scattered wastefully throughout the land—not to speak of twelve hundred unemployed Protestant clergymen—that, if wisely administered, would amply meet all educational requirements. A very intimate friend of mine was speaking to a schoolmaster who had house, glebe, and a good income upon what is called 'Erasmus Smith's Foundation.' 'Well,' said my friend, 'and how is your school getting on?' 'Admirably,' replied the schoolmaster; 'I haven't a single pupil.' 'What!' said my friend, taken suddenly 'aback, as though he had been struck in the stomach, 'not a pupil? And are you glad of that?' 'Come, come,' said the other, 'you're a man of the world, and you'd be glad enough too. I've an independent income; and if there are no boys to teach, all the better for me.' The schoolmaster in question is not a man of the world; he is a clergyman—a man of God; and happily for himself has a great deal of time on hand to spend in meditation upon the things of eternity." With such a waste of educational resources, there is nothing very wonderful in the intellectual condition of Ireland, which our writer describes in graphic style, and refers to its true source.

Not one *bona fide* publisher would you find in the metropolis of a land containing six millions of inhabitants. The windows of the fashionable bookshops would display to you little else than recent religious publications, in whose pages you might wade through twaddling sentiment, Elizabethan controversy, and mischievous fanaticism; but you might turn over a bale of recent literary issues without lighting on one recent native work of masculine thought, solid scholarship, or broadly national aspiration. The native medical and mathematical works would, however, honourably remind you that you were the while within bowshot of an ancient and richly endowed University. Is it that there is a lack of ability in the land? In all Europe there is not a people of quicker reader intelligence; but alas! in all Europe there is not a land upon whose bowels feeds so mercilessly the devil of religious discord. One great stumbling block in the way of fair and vigorous action against all ecclesiastical interference in secular education in the way of the intellectual regeneration of the land, is the existence of a Protestant Establishment in a Catholic country. The truth is, England, after using the Reformation as a crutch to prop up her own political independence, made use of it as a staff to knock a sister on the head.

It would be easy for us to find points in the book to which we should object. Sometimes the author generalises too rapidly, sometimes he is too smart, and in fact approaches to the irreverent. But the book has a manliness, an independence, a catholicity, and a shrewd good sense which would cover many such defects.

"IMAGINISM AND RATIONALISM."

"To believe," says Mr. Vickers, "in the imagination, and be guided by it under the influence of ignorance and passion, is *Imaginism*: to distrust it and follow the teaching of observation, reflection, and experience, is *Rationalism*." Christian faith is by him identified with imaginism, but though he calls himself a Rationalist, he does not "follow the teaching of observation, reflection, and experience." A more baseless theory than that here given of the "origin and progress of Christianity" we have never met with. Mr. Vickers starts with the assumption that miracles are impossible, and then proceeds to explain what the miracles of the gospels really were. They were dramatic spectacles, got up for an argumentative purpose. The founders of Christianity were Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, Lazarus

* *Wayside Thoughts: being a Series of Desultory Essays on Education.* By D'ARCY W. THOMPSON. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

* *Imagination and Rationalism; an Explanation of the Origin and Progress of Christianity.* By JOHN VICKERS. London: Trubner and Co.

of Bethany, and others who formed a revolutionary junta in Jerusalem. These "tutored" Jesus, encouraged him to "act the part of the Jewish Messiah," and "schooled him for an enterprise of martyrdom." As they could not convince their fellow countrymen by argument, they "thought it right to put before them additional and more impressive signs which should not fail to effect their conversion. Like many educated religious men who have lived since, the doctrine which they believed to be true they did not scruple to advocate by false arguments, but instead of writing a controversial book, as is the fashion with us, they got up a controversial drama, in which Jesus, the humble peasant prophet of Nazareth, was instructed to act a principal part." Of this "controversial drama," the gospel miracles, the crucifixion and pretended resurrection are portions. Mr. Vickers does not pretend to find the slightest evidence for these assertions in the gospel history; "it is a rule among men of science when they meet with any puzzling phenomena, or arrangements of matter of which the causes are not clearly known, to theorise, or explain them by the help of conjectural causes." So has Mr. Vickers "theorised" on the phenomena of the Christian record, and this system of what he calls "stratagem" is the "cause" he has conjectured. The sentence we have just quoted reveals his entire ignorance of inductive philosophy and the method of science; equal ignorance of the New Testament is apparent throughout the book. Thus, he speaks of Christ as an ascetic,—overlooking the fact that the "virtuous scribes and Pharisees" charged him with being the reverse. He says that the Apostles were all "monks"; overlooking the fact that Peter's wife's mother is reported to have been cured of a fever by Jesus, and that several of the Apostles carried on their trade as fishermen in the intervals of their missionary labour. We quote one sentence to show how utterly unfit Mr. Vickers is to understand what he reads:—"When Paul the Pharisee joined the new sect, he began to preach innovations and establish another rule of conduct, which allowed Christians to marry and hold property, and conform to the social system of the Gentile world; and his followers in consequence increased rapidly, and soon outnumbered those of the orthodox faith, although by them steadfastly opposed." The moral tone of this book is, however, more worthless and offensive than its literary execution. Mr. Vickers has no objection to "pious frauds."

"An ignorant and superstitious people cannot do without idols; they must have their prophet-worship and king-worship; and their more enlightened countrymen, although feeling privately superior to their idolatry, may have good reasons for publicly respecting it, or at least for not treating it with contempt. The nation's gifted statesmen who stand behind a weak hereditary monarch and assist him, or rather use him as a puppet, in governing the country, are well acquainted with all his foibles and vices, and talk of them freely among themselves, but never think of exposing them to the people. . . . Jesus of Nazareth, having gained by the fortune of priority a position at the head of Christendom similar to that of an hereditary king, must be treated by all wise and politic Christians in exactly the same manner,—they must condescend to hold all the popular superstitions which have grown up respecting him, and join in the common worship of the Church."

Mr. Vickers constantly sneers at "the admirers of martyrdom," who treat "this condescension to the popular sentiment, this prudent conformity to religious laws and conventionalities," as a "serious moral laxity, a want of sincerity, a disregard of conscience, and the obligations of truth."

"The writer's father, who was a sincere Rationalist, never disclosed the fact to either of his children till they had sufficient strength of mind and intelligence to be sensible of the difficulties of orthodox Christianity, and perceive the fallacies of Whately's 'Christian Evidences.' He held the office of churchwarden for nearly thirty years, was an assiduous Sunday-school teacher, and in various other ways had a great moral influence in a large agricultural parish, which was governed by an aristocracy of farmers; but had he not practised conformity, and made a secret of his philosophical opinions, instead of being a useful public man in the parish, and winning all the neighbours' respect, he would have been completely isolated, branded with infamy, and regarded with suspicion and distrust."

The man who writes thus is audacious enough to deny the authenticity of the narrative of John ix., on this ground among others: that if the parents of the blind man "had really believed that Jesus had wrought a great miracle of healing in their family, they would not have feared being excommunicated by an unbelieving synagogue, but would have been ready to confess him boldly in the face of all the punishments and dangers of the world." We thank Mr. Vickers for this admission that faith in Jesus may be expected to produce a moral courage and a simple straightforwardness which he does not rank among the Rationalistic virtues. We cannot commend the moral results

of Mr. Vickers's father's training of his son; it would, however, have been well for the son's reputation if he had imitated his father's reticence.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and the Royal family come up to Buckingham Palace on Monday.

The *Guardian* states that on the day when her Majesty leaves Windsor there is an exodus of two hundred persons from the precincts of the castle, and that the servants are all placed upon "board wages," just as done in ordinary gentlemen's families.

It is considered not unlikely that the Princess of Wales will accompany the Prince on his approaching visit to Ireland, an intimation to that effect having been received by the Municipal Council of Dublin.

It is stated that arrangements are now being made for a tour by his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, which will include most places of interest in Italy and the East.

Mr. and Mrs. Disraeli had a most brilliant reception on Wednesday evening at the new Foreign Office, which, though far from complete, was thrown open for the occasion. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, foreign ambassadors, members of both Houses of Parliament, and a multitude of titled and untitled persons, were present to do honour to the new Premier and his lady. The invitations were exclusive of politics. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, and a number of leading Whig politicians.

Mr. Gladstone's resolutions were, it is said, concocted at a meeting of leading members of the Opposition. All sections of the Liberal party were represented: the old Peelites by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Cardwell; the *sans peur* Whigs by Lord Granville and the Duke of Argyll; the Radicals by Mr. Bright; and the working officials by Mr. Chichester Fortescue, formerly Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Mr. Brand and Mr. Glyn, the late and present Liberal whips. Mr. Bright may thus be said to have rehearsed his part in the future government of the country.

Sir Roderick Murchison has been elected by the Academy of Sciences in Paris foreign member, in place of the late Professor Faraday.

Mr. Gladstone is President of the Statistical Society for the current year.

We (*Leader*) are not aware that Baron Rothschild has yet received his peerage, but he has received the Premier—at dinner. Mr. Disraeli is understood to have dined with the great millionaire on Sunday last. Their conversation must have been not a little interesting.

The *Owl* hints that the office of Minister of Education will be offered to Sir John Pakington, and that General Peel will be invited to resume his former position as head of the War Department.

The select committee on the House of Commons arrangements have at present under consideration plans submitted by Mr. Barry for the construction of a new house, to be built across the East Court, near the Speaker's residence. The entrance is to be from the present chamber, which it is proposed to convert into a vestibule. The new building will seat about 490 members, and will be sixty-three feet square, with division lobbies thirty feet wide at either side. If sanctioned by Parliament it can be built and opened within two years, at a cost of about 100,000*l*. The committee are decidedly opposed to any suggestions for a tribune from which members should address the House.

The new Bishop of Lichfield (Dr. Selwyn) preached at the Chapel Royal on Sunday. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present.

The dinner to Mr. Brand will take place this day, at Willis's Rooms. Mr. Gladstone is expected to preside.

Miscellaneous News.

The execution of Miles Weatherhill for the Todmorden murder, and that of Timothy Flaherty for the murder of his sweetheart at Droylsden, is fixed for Saturday, the 4th of April, at Manchester.

On Monday work was resumed at the mills of Saltaire, the workpeople being content to leave the matters in dispute to the kindly consideration of their employers, Messrs. Titus Salt and Co.

At the Taunton assizes Alexander Holmes was tried for the murder of John Wilkins, a farmer's boy, at Winscombe, on the 13th inst. Medical testimony clearly established the fact that the prisoner had a weak intellect, and the jury acquitted him on the ground of insanity.

A meeting of the United Executive Committee for the relief of the exceptional distress in the east of London was held at the Mansion House on Monday. It was decided to adjourn *sine die*, and to pay over the unexpended balance of the money received in aid of the funds of the East-end Emigration Committee.

MR. MORLEY AND THE NOTTINGHAM ELECTORS.—The Liberal electors at Nottingham have, it is stated, forwarded a letter to Samuel Morley, Esq., expressing their desire to bring him forward at the next election as one of the Liberal candidates without imposing on him any part of the expense, and, if possible, without asking him to appear in person.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.—In a congregation held at Oxford University on Saturday, the form of statute for carrying out University extension, that is, for allowing men to be members of the University

and to reside in lodgings, whether attached to any college or hall or not, was put to the vote, and carried by a large majority—the votes being *Placet* 89, as against *Non-Placet* 25. A similar movement has taken place at Cambridge.

REPRESENTATION OF SOUTH ESSEX.—A Nonconformist Liberal writes to the *Daily News* :—

Allow me to call your attention to an important difference in the addresses of the two Liberal candidates for South Essex, to which you refer in an article to-day. Mr. Andrew Johnston is in favour of "complete religious equality in Ireland"; and, as I understand, he would secure that equality by means of a policy of impartial disendowment. But Mr. Wingfield Baker is only in favour of "the reform of the Irish Church," so that if he were in the House next week he could not vote for Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, and might even vote against them. And, by way of compensation for his short-comings in this respect, he is for "the abolition of Church-rates"—which will be abolished before he has an opportunity of voting on the subject. Now, whatever other Liberals may do, it is certain that the Nonconformist electors of South Essex will not vote for one who, in this matter, is a supporter of Mr. Disraeli and not of Mr. Gladstone.

On Monday next there is to be a general conference of the Dissenters of South Essex, at Stratford, when probably it will be found that Mr. Baker has been able to bring up his creed to the level of the leader of the Liberal party.

MR. BRIGHT'S LATE SPEECH ON IRELAND.—To use a very hackneyed phrase, on the same evening there was for Mr. Bright the proudest moment of his life. By that one speech he has for ever destroyed all the capital of his opponents, who, great and small, were always trying to be smart upon the member for Birmingham; for, so to speak, he developed the culmination of an entire change in his political idiosyncrasy. Not only was he moderate, conciliatory—in a word, close upon conservative; but he was so universally sympathetic, so gentle, even tender, in regard to all parties, persons, and questions, that he carried the whole House with him as one man; and when he closed that masterpiece of rhetoric, in the writing down of which the omission of one word would have been a blunder akin to a crime, it is doubtful if there was anyone who heard him who did not confess to himself that Mr. Bright had established firmly his right to be considered a statesman, and, moreover, given the country a claim to call on him to take his share in that sphere of public life the duty of which is "to govern men and guide the State."—*From Sketches in Parliament, in the Illustrated London News.*

FALSE ALARM AND PANIC.—A very singular scene was witnessed in Sheffield on Sunday last. The Rev. R. Stainton had announced that he would deliver a lecture in the local theatre on the Todmorden murders. So great was the crowd attending that the theatre was most inconveniently crammed. A man in the gallery, oppressed by the heat, and feeling that he was about to faint, tried to leave his seat and reach an open window. Before he could do that he fell, uttering a loud cry. This frightened the people about him, who could not at all make out what had happened. They screamed, and then some one raised a cry of "Fire," and in a very short time the whole mass of the people were panic-stricken. In an instant every avenue of escape was blocked, and in their flight men and women jumped from the boxes on to the stage and into the pit, while the occupants of the pit swarmed over the orchestra to the stage, and frantic efforts were made to get out at the rear. The passages at the back being choked, a skylight was broken, and through this many persons forced themselves into an adjoining yard. It is remarkable that no serious injury was done to life or limb. The internal fittings of the theatre were very much damaged. In every part of the house seats were broken and torn up and partitions smashed. The footlights were amongst the first fittings to go. In escaping by the stage the fugitives paid small regard to the scenery, which has suffered wholesale demolition.

DISCREPANT REPORTING.—It has usually been the boast of the British press that, amid all political and party excitements, it does not fail to give a fair and impartial report of what is spoken by public men, whether in accord or not with its own sentiments. Let us hope that this honourable characteristic will be always maintained; and we cannot but strongly deprecate any departure from this rule of fair reporting. Such departures do, however, occasionally occur. A week or two ago a deputation from the Peace Society waited by appointment on Lord Stanley, with a memorial in favour of submitting to arbitration the questions in dispute between us and the United States. In Lord Stanley's reply he made some very kind remarks in reference to the Peace Society. He said, "he thought he might congratulate the members of the Peace Society that their principles were becoming more popular." And then, referring to a period of comparative disarmament and general peace, which he believed must follow the "present state of confusion and transition" which prevails in Europe, he added these words:—"And then, gentlemen, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that the ideas and principles you have been propagating will have had much to do in bringing to pass this better condition of things." But in the account which appeared in the *Times* and *Standard*, these sentences were carefully eliminated, though in other respects their report of Lord Stanley's speech was word for word the same as appeared in the other papers. And thus it seems that Lord Stanley will not be allowed, if the *Times* and *Standard* can help it, to place before the country any sentiments of which they do not approve. We must say that we think it is paying rather a high homage to the power

of the Peace Society that the editors of these papers should think it necessary to be so careful in erasing anything favourable to it, even when uttered by no less a man than the Foreign Minister.

Cleanings.

Serious storms and great loss of life are reported to have occurred on the Atlantic.

Vaccination and visitation are telling very favourably in the diminution of small-pox at Woolwich.

A movement for the adoption of short time has been commenced in East Lancashire.

Salt Lake law requires young men to marry at nineteen or pay three hundred dollars fine.

Messrs. Longmans will bring out next week "Memoirs of Baron Bunsen," in two octavo volumes.

A gentleman of colour was the purchaser of the most expensive of Sir Frederick Bruce's effects at the recent sale in Washington.

The Glasgow magistrates have sent a quack doctor to gaol for thirty days for fraudulently taking money from a man under the pretence of relieving him from the affliction of fits.

Messrs. Warne and Co. are about to issue a new library edition of Mr. Disraeli's novels and tales, in five volumes, crown octavo. They are also bringing out the same in shilling volumes for the public.

Mr. Charles C. B. Williams, a brewer of Kingsland, has been fined 500*l.* for selling concoctions called "maltheine" and "pure hydromel," the former intended for adulterating porter, and the latter for mixing with beer.

The last stone of the Fleet Prison in Farringdon-street is gone, the old doorway being demolished at last; and with it also has gone the house adjoining, lately in the occupation of Messrs. Routledge, the publishers.

In the gardens of the Inner Temple, Mr. Broome, remarks the *Gardener's Chronicle*, has succeeded in making a display of hyacinths and other spring flowers such as one could hardly have expected under the difficulties which surround their production in the heart of London. The hyacinths are rooted in cocoanut fibre seuse.

At the Assizes at Lewes, on Wednesday (says the *Surrey Standard*), in a case of felony, a police-constable, whilst giving evidence, was asked the question by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, "Did you find it just as it was?" To this he replied, "No, my lord; it was just as it *seems*." His lordship pocketed the affront, and also the attack upon his Lindley Murray, whilst the court roared with laughter.

There is an old man near Penrith, named Thomas Hutchinson, residing at Fell Gate, who is said to have reached the extraordinary age of 112 years. Although considerably shrunk, the old man is said to possess a comparatively robust constitution. He was a soldier in the British army, and was present at the battle of Waterloo. If so, he must then have been fifty-nine years of age. Such stories require authentication.

A FABULOUS ABYSSINIAN CUSTOM.—The *Standard* correspondent says that three of the officers of the 4th Regiment saw the other day, at Fokada, an operation which was described by Bruce, but which has been denied by all subsequent travellers, and by the Abyssinians themselves. This was the operation of cutting a steak from the body of a living ox. The writer gives a sickening account of the alleged cruelty, adding that half-an-hour after the animal was walking about and feeding quietly!

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.—Major Tennant is going out to India to observe the total eclipse of August 18, with a special view to photography and polarisation; the cost of the expedition having been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India. Major Tennant will be accompanied by three non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers, well exercised in photographic manipulation; so that good pictures of all that takes place during this almost unprecedented eclipse may be anticipated. The instruments will be set up at Guntoor or Masulipatam. Thus, with the party under Lieutenant Herschel, which we mentioned a fortnight since, there will be two bodies of trained observers on watch for phenomena. The more the better; and it would be a great advantage to science if, along the whole line of the eclipse, from Gondar to New Hebrides, where the totality begins at sunset, parties were stationed to observe the eclipse hour by hour, from its commencement to its close. Such a series of observations would perhaps settle once for all the question as to the real nature of the red protuberances seen around the sun.—*Athenaeum*.

THE QUEEN WITHOUT AN ESCORT.—A London correspondent writes:—"A curious misadventure took place a few days ago which has not been mentioned in any of the journals. When the Queen arrived at Paddington Station from Windsor on the occasion of the last Drawing-room, her Majesty's quick glance immediately discovered that something was wrong. 'Where is the escort?' she demanded. 'It is not here, your Majesty,' was all the reply the officer in attendance could give; an answer which certainly conveyed no new intelligence to his Royal mistress. It turned out that Colonel the Hon. Dudley De Ros (Colonel of the 1st Life Guards) had sent the notice commanding the attendance of an escort to General Sir George Wetherall by post instead of by Queen's Messenger. The missive should have reached Sir George in time; but that gallant officer being opposed to the maxim of 'early to bed and early to rise,' did not open the letter until it was too late to obey its instructions. Before the general had tasted his coffee and cracked his first egg the Queen had arrived. I do not envy the unfortunate 'somebody'

who was responsible for this blunder, whether Colonel De Ros or General Wetherall. With all her love of Highland simplicity, there is no one so severe to mark any omission of etiquette as Queen Victoria. Her Majesty went to Aldershot on Thursday in what is called 'Ascot State,' that is, escorted by the 2nd Life Guards, and with the postillions in their hats and blue liveries, instead of the more brilliant attire formerly used at the opening of Parliament. The Queen looked better than she had done since the death of the Prince Consort."—*Sheffield Independent*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

HINDS.—March 21, at Swanage, Dorset, the wife of the Rev. George Hinds, of a son.

RAE.—March 21, at 109, Manor-street, Clapham, London, the wife of Mr. Robert Rae, of a daughter.

DE FRAINE.—March 21, at West Wickham, Cambridgeshire, the wife of John De Fraine, Esq., of a son.

HOBBS.—March 21, at Greyfriars-road, Reading, the wife of Mr. Jas. J. Hobbs, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

SOUTH-LINFORTH.—December 21, 1867, at the residence of the Rev. Mr. Johnson, of the Independent chapel, Bourke-street, Surrey Hills, John South, eldest son of the late Richard South, to Emily Mary Ann, third daughter of the late Joseph Linforth, both of Sydney.

GRAY-EVANS.—December 24, at the Congregational chapel, Pitt-street, Sydney, Edward, eldest son of the late Mr. G. Gray, of London, to Martha Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. H. Evans, Woolahra.

BARLING-VERNON.—January 11, by the Rev. W. Slayter, Joseph, eldest son of J. Barling, Esq., J.P., Booral House, Port Stephens, to Margaret Euphemia, youngest daughter of James Vernon, Esq., Larry's Flat Station, Manning River.

PRICE-STEEL.—January 18, at the Congregational church, Pitt-street, Sydney, by the Rev. John Graham, Thomas Price, Esq., artist, late of London, to Mary Annie, eldest daughter of the late Thomas Steel, Esq., of Appleford, Berkshire, England.

LA TROBE-KALTOFEN.—March 13, at the Moravian chapel, Gomersal, near Leeds, by the Rev. James La Trobe, Bishop of the Moravian Church, Mr. Henry La Trobe, of Totterdown, Bristol, to Mary Ann, daughter of the Rev. J. G. Kaltoben, of Gomersal.

NOWELL-EMMETT.—March 16, at the Baptist chapel, Brixham, Mr. Samuel Nowell, to Miss Susan Peters Emmett, eldest daughter of Mr. W. H. Emmett.

SHERRIN-NORTHCOTT.—March 16, at the Commercial-street Baptist Chapel, Newport, Monmouthshire, by the Rev. J. W. Lance, Edward Burnell Sherrin, jun., to Elizabeth Ann Bolt, only daughter of John Northcott, Esq., Dorset-place, Stow-hill, Newport.

GREEN-CHERW.—March 18, at Arthur-street Chapel, Walworth, by the Rev. Samuel Cowdy, the Rev. John Green, of Stogumber, Somerset, to Sarah Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Samuel Chew, Esq., of Wood-street, Cheapside, and Camberwell.

RAWLE-STEVENSON.—March 19, at the Independent chapel, Dulverton, Mr. John Rawle, to Jane, daughter of Mr. Stevens, both of Winsford, Somerset.

STEPHENS-KITLEY.—March 19, at Buckingham Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. J. Penny, Mr. John Stephens, of Clifton, to Selina, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Kitley, of Weston-super-Mare.

STOCKDALE-JAGGAR.—March 19, at Dogley-lane Independent Chapel, Kirkburton, by the Rev. F. E. Henson, Earle, youngest son of William Stockdale, Esq., Highburton, to Elizabeth, only daughter of the late William Jaggar, Esq., Kirkburton.

BUTLER-TITCHMARSH.—March 19, at Tacket-street Chapel, Ipswich, by the Rev. E. Jones, Eustace, son of the late William Field Butler, of Royston, to Emma, third daughter of Thomas Titchmarsh, of Royston.

CAINE-BROWN.—March 24, at Myrtle-street Chapel, Liverpool, William S. Caine, eldest son of Nathaniel Caine, to Alice, eldest daughter of the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown. No cards.

DEATHS.

AITCHISON.—March 18, at Wandsworth-road, Surrey, Martha, the beloved wife of Mr. H. Aitchison, and youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Crown, of Russell-street, Reading, aged twenty-seven.

BOUNSALE.—March 19, at Bridgwater, Ernest Rowland, youngest son of Mr. Alfred Bounsall, aged six years and eight months.

WALKER.—March 22, at Harpenden, Herts, Mr. Walker, after five years of severe mental and physical suffering, aged sixty-six.

PEARSON.—March 23, at 38, Denbigh-street, Warwick-square, Mary, the beloved wife of the Rev. J. Spencer Pearson, of London.

MANNERING.—March 23, at 23, Finsbury-circus, Louisa, the beloved wife of Edward Hill Mannering, aged thirty.

WICKHAM.—March 23, at 7, Westbury-terrace, Wandsworth-road, Ellen Wickham, aged twenty-five, deeply regretted.

LEE.—March 23, at Liphook, Hants, Mary Adelaide Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. W. Lee.

GRAFFTEY.—March 25, at his residence in Camden-road, Mr. Samuel Graftey, late of Red Lion-square, aged fifty-four years.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—THE BEST WAY.—To gain any end there are often many ways, but there is always a best way. This statement applies with wonderful force to Holloway's remedies, which overcome ill health by driving noxious matters from the frame, by repairing broken or injured structures, and by establishing regularity of action. This is the only safe and feasible method of combating diseases, and securing sound health. With pure blood, good digestion, strong nerves, and perfect functional order, most maladies may be vanquished, and strength surely re-established. The balsamic and healing qualities of Holloway's ointment render it invaluable in the nursery for healing cuts, scratches, and sores, for allaying inflammations, reducing swellings, and cleansing unhealthy skins.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 87, for the week ending Wednesday, March 25.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£35,099,805	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,997
		Gold Coin & Bullion	20,099,805
	£35,099,805		£35,099,805

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (Inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,272,162
Reserve	3,635,003	Other Securities	19,039,838
Public Deposits	7,778,467	Notes	11,764,940
Other Deposits	19,502,226	Gold & Silver Coin	1,338,278
Seven Day and other Bills	437,513		
	£45,415,218		£45,415,218

March 26, 1868, FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, London, Monday, March 23.

Our market opened with a quiet tone this morning, but having a very small supply of English wheat to dispose of, factors were enabled to realise the rates current on this day so'nigh. The trade was dull for foreign, and restricted to quite retail business at recent prices. Barley a fair sale at last week's quotations. Beans firm. Peas rather dearer. The arrival of oats for the week is larger, and vessels are hourly coming up from the near ports. The trade, therefore, for this article has been further depressed, and the light inferior qualities have given way fully 1*s.* per qr. in value. On the better descriptions the reduction is fully 6*d.* per qr. from Monday last.

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, March 21.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10*d.* to 10½*d.*; house-hold ditto, 7½*d.* to 9½*d.*

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, March 23.—The total import of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4,555 head. In the corresponding week last year the aggregate arrivals were 9,035; in 1866, 13,151; in 1865, 7,160; in 1864, 4,905; in 1863, 3,687; in 1862, 2,054; and in 1861, 2,055 head. There was only a limited supply of foreign stock on sale here to-day, and nearly the whole of it found buyers, at very full prices to a slight advance compared with Monday last. The show of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts was moderately extensive, and in very prime condition. From Scotland the receipts were liberal, and of full average weight. The supply from Ireland was again limited. The attendance of butchers being on the increase, all breeds of beasts changed hands freely, at an advance in the quotations of 1*d.* per 8*lbs.* The best Scots and crosses sold at 5*s.* per 8*lbs.* From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received about 1,700 Scots, crosses, and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 630 various breeds; from Scotland 533 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland 160 oxen, cows, &c. There was about an average number of sheep in the pens for the time of year, and the quality of most breeds was good. The demand was far from active; nevertheless, last week's prices were supported. The best downs and half-breeds, in the wool, realised 5*s.* 4*d.* per 8*lbs.*; out of the wool, the quotations were 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.* per 8*lbs.* Lambs, the show of which was moderate, were in fair request at full currencies, viz., from 3*s.* to 4*s.* each. Very few calves were brought forward. The inquiry for them ruled steady at last week's quotations. The top figure was 5*s.* 4*d.* per 8*lbs.* Prime small pigs were steady; but large pigs were very dull at late rates. Prices ranged from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* per 8*lbs.*

Per 8*lbs.* to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	4	3	6	Prime Southdowns	5	2	0	4
Second quality	3	8	4	0	Lambs	0	0	0	0
Prime large oxen	4	2	4	8	Lge. coarse calves	4	3	4	6
Prime Scots, &c.	4	10	5	0	Prime small	4	8	5	4
Coarse inf. sheep	3	8	4	0	Large hogs	3	4	3	8
Second quality	4	2	4	6	Westm. porkers	3	10	4	2
Pr. coarse woolled	4	8	5	0					

Suckling calves, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; and quarter-old store pigs, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, March 23.

About average supplies of meat are on sale in these markets, and the trade generally is steady, at very full prices. The imports into London last week amounted to 70 packages and 16 quarters of beef from Hamburg. 7 chests of mutton from Harlingen, 18 packages from Ostend, and 5 ditto from Rotterdam.

Per 8*lbs.* by the carcass.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	10	3	2	Inf. mutton	3	0	3	8
Middling ditto	3	4	3	8	Middling ditto	3	10	4	2
Prime large do.	3	10	4	2	Prime ditto	4	4	4	6
Do. small do.	4	4	4	6	Veal	3	10	4	6
Large pork	3	10	3	6	Lamb	0	0	0	0
Small pork	3	8	4	4					

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, London, Saturday, March 21.—Foreign imports, consisting of asparagus, green peas, artichokes, lettuces, endive, and carrots, are still heavy. Good English pears are difficult to obtain, and but few French ones can be had. Some new grapes have made their appearance, and are fetching as much as 5*s.* per lb. Pine-apples are still realising high prices, those quoted at 5*s.* per lb. being inferior sorts, chiefly employed in confectionary. Strawberries continue to make their appearance. Cornish broccoli is plentiful and good. Potatoes have not altered in price since our last report. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, cyclamens, Chinese primulas, pelargoniums, mignonette, early tulips, hyacinths, poinsettia pulcherrima, and roses.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, March 23.—Our market has hardly shown so much activity during the past week, but prices have been well sustained, owing to the very limited supply of samples on offer. Continental markets remain very firm, Bavarians being in good demand at an advance of 8*s.* to 5*s.* per cwt., and the scarcity of Belgians causing quotations to be well maintained, with a tendency to advance. New York advices to the 11th inst. report a very quiet market; prices continue without alteration, but the fast diminishing stock will doubtless induce an improvement shortly both in demand and value. Mid and East Kent, 5*s.* 6*d.* 15*s.*, to 7*s.* 15*s.*; Weald of Kent, 4*s.* 10*s.*, 5*s.* 5*s.*, to 6*s.* 5*s.*; Sussex, 4*s.* 10*s.*, 5*s.* 5*s.*, to 5*s.* 10*s.*; Farnham and country, 7*s.*, 7*s.* 15*s.*, to 8*s.* 5*s.*; yearlings, 8*s.* 10*s.*, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 10*s.* The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 3 bales from Antwerp, 9 Bremen, 35 Dunkirk, 16 Hamburg, and 15 bales from Rotterdam.

PROVISIONS, Monday, March 23.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 101 firkins butter, and 2,185 bales bacon; and from foreign ports, 18,960 casks, &c., butter, 1,099 bales and 836 boxes bacon. The season for Irish butter may be considered as over. Foreign sells well: some descriptions advanced 2*s.* per cwt. Bacon market ruled dull till the close of the week, when there was a fair demand, at a decline of about 2*s.* per cwt.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 23.—These markets are heavily supplied with potatoes. For all qualities the trade has ruled quiet, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 25 tons from Boulogne, 600 Dunkirk, 51 Harlingen, 85 Honfleur, 123 Caen, 25 Bremen, 130 Rouen, and 1 from Antwerp. Regents, 120*s.* to 160*s.* per ton; flukes, 130*s.* to 170*s.*; rocks, 110*s.* to 140*s.*; French, 90*s.* to 55*s.*

SEED, Monday, March 23.—Red cloverseed was in fair supply; good qualities were in steady demand, and prices were unvaried. Old foreign was saleable at low rates. White cloverseed realised as much money. Trefoils were unaltered in price, and in moderate request. Hamburg tares were in superabundance, and buyers could get as many as they wanted at very low prices. Qualities now left are not generally good, being mostly very small, and only fit for feeding purposes or to hold over.

WOOL, Monday, March 23.—There is a fair activity in the demand for English wool, and the quotations are well supported. The new clip meets with a steady enquiry, the quality being, for the most part, superior.

OIL, Monday, March 23.—Very little business has been doing in linseed oil, and prices have given way. Rape oil has

been neglected, although offered at considerably reduced rates. Olive oils have moved off slowly, and holders, owing to large arrivals, have been more disposed to sell. Coconut oil has been more freely operated in, the principal transactions having been for export. Fine Lagos palm oil has been firmly held, but inferior sorts have been dull. Petroleum and turpentine have been in moderate request, at steady rates.

TALLOW, Monday, March 28.—The market is firmer, with a steady demand. F. Y. C. has gone to 44s. on the spot. Town tallow is 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, March 28.—Market heavy, at the reduction of last day's sale. Wallsend Hutton's 18s., Haswell 18s., Hetton Lyons 14s. 9d., Original Hartlepool 18s., Tarnstall 15s. 3d., Riddells 16s. 6d., Holywell Main 15s. 9d., Wylam 15s. 6d., Hartley's 16s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 28; ships left from last day, 36—64. Ships at sea, 68.

Advertisements.

MORELL THEOBALD, PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT and Insurance Broker, effects Insurance (Fire, Life, or Marine) at lowest rates, and secures the most advantageous terms for Ministers and others, where special facilities are obtainable.

LOANS negotiated. ACCOUNTS adjusted, and the rights of Creditors or Shareholders protected.

* M. T.'s pamphlet on Life Insurance sent free on application. County Chambers, 14, Cornhill, and 78, Lombard-street, E.C.

THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE-PATRONAGE AND CONTROL

will be held in London on the 5th and 6th of May next. Information respecting the appointment of Delegates, and the arrangements generally, may be had on application to the undersigned.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.
2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

M. R. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS for the ABOLITION of the IRISH CHURCH.

The LONDON WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION hereby convene a MEETING on TUESDAY EVENING next, March 31, at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, in support of the above Resolutions, now before the House of Commons.

Mr. GEORGE POTTER in the chair. Admission free. Doors open at 7. Chair taken at 8 o'clock. By Order of the Committee, ROBERT HARTWELL, Sec.

AT A MEETING held in the Schoolroom of UNION CHAPEL, HUNTINGDON, March 18, 1888; the Rev. J. H. MILLARD, B.A., in the chair—

1. It was moved by M. FOSTER, Esq., seconded by Mr. T. S. HUNTER, and resolved:

"That the petition (now read) in favour of the admission of Nonconformists to an equal share in the emoluments and honours of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge be adopted, and forwarded to Lord Robert Montagu, M.P. for the county, with a respectful request that he will present it to the House of Commons, and support its prayer."

2. It was moved by BATEMAN BROWN, Esq., seconded by Mr. T. B. RIDLEY, and resolved:

"That, in the judgment of this meeting, the existence of the Established Church in Ireland, inasmuch as it represents but a small fraction of the nation, is a gross injustice to the Irish people; and its influence, by exciting the hostile prejudices of the Roman Catholic population, is rather injurious than helpful to the spread of Evangelical religion."

3. It was moved by Mr. R. HONEY, seconded by Mr. W. R. SMITH, and resolved:

"That, while ardently desiring the better education of the people, looking with eager hope for a more equitable administration of the grammar-school endowments, and quite willing that all requisite aid to the cause of education should be liberally supplied from the national purse, this meeting earnestly deprecates the support of any merely denominational system, as calculated to promote sectarian animosities and strife, and would limit the interference of Government to the encouragement of secular education, chiefly if not exclusively by the payment of ascertained results."

MILLINER and SALESWOMAN in the SHOWROOM. By a first-class milliner. Has a knowledge of mantles. In or near London preferred. First-class references. E. B. G., Post-office, King's Lynn.

WANTED, APPRENTICES (in and out-door) to the DRESSMAKING. Miss Martin's Dressmaking and Millinery Establishment 237, Upper-street, Islington.

CLERK or BOOK-KEEPER.—SITUATION as above WANTED by a YOUNG MAN of education and ability. Highest testimonials from present employers. Address, K. L., care of Mr. Robert London, 1, Adelaide-street, Strand, W. C.

TO GROCERS and TEA DEALERS. As ASSISTANT, by a steady, respectable Young Man. London preferred. Used to a counter and family trade. Five and a-half years' experience. Good references. Aged 21. —Henry, Post-office, Colnbrook, Bucks.

TO GROCERS, &c., as FIRST or SECOND HAND, by a respectable YOUNG MAN, age twenty-four, nine years' experience in both branches of the trade. Address, A. N., Mr. B. Foreman's, Boughton, Faversham, Kent.

TO the MENTALLY AFFLICTED. RE-ENGAGEMENT either to an Invalid or Insane Nobleman or Gentleman. By a highly respectable man. Has had the management and care of one gentleman for upwards of thirteen years. No objection to travel or go a sea voyage. Testimonials and recommendations excellent. Direct G. L., 6, Ramond-road, Victoria Park, E.

MATTHEW GREENE, Stock and Share Dealer, 1, St. Michael's House, Cornhill, has for DISPOSAL a limited number of SHARE3 in THREE BRITISH MINES, which are certain for a considerable rise, and likely to pay 100 per cent. on the present low prices. Full particulars on application. Money advanced on Shares and other Securities.

THE "NONCONFORMIST."—A Complete Set of the "NONCONFORMIST," from its commencement to the present day, 27 vols., strongly bound and gilt lettered at the back, TO BE SOLD. For particulars, apply to Rev. John Stock, L.L.D., Devonport.

THE HEATHEN OF OUR OWN LAND. THE EAST LONDON CHRISTIAN MISSION, UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF WILLIAM BOOTH.

THE NECESSITY FOR THIS MISSION.

The appalling temporal and spiritual destitution of the East of London, with its population of nearly a million souls, not one in a hundred of the great bulk of whom attend either church or chapel. It was ascertained on a certain Sabbath some time ago, in Bethnal-green, that out of a population of 180,000 only 2,000 were present in all the places of worship in the district. In the Whitechapel-road, only half-a-mile in length, 18,600 persons may be seen enter the public-houses on the Sabbath. While the most squalid poverty, the most hideous vice, the most dreadful crime, and the most abject misery abound in every direction.

THE OBJECT OF THIS MISSION

Is to evangelise by extraordinary efforts these outlying crowds who are not reached by the existing ordinary instrumentalities.

MEANS EMPLOYED.

PREACHING in the OPEN-AIR, and in THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS, SHOPS, and ROOMS in prominent situations or very dark neighbourhoods. **VISITING** from House to House. **BIBLE CARRIAGE** for the Sale of Bibles, Tracts, &c.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS. **BIBLE CLASSES.** **BELIEVERS' MEETINGS.** **EVENING CLASSES** for Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. **SUNDAY, DAY, and RAGGED SCHOOLS.**

READING ROOMS. **PENNY BANKS.** **RELIEF** of the DESTITUTE and RICK POOR, by the distribution of Bread, Meat, small sums of Money, and by **SOUP KITCHENS.** **MATERNAL SOCIETIES.**

PREACHING STATIONS.

New East London Theatre (late Eding-ham), Whitechapel. Cambridge Music Hall, Commercial-street, Shoreditch. Mission Hall, 183, Whitechapel-road. Oriental Theatre, High-street, Poplar.

Temperance Hall, High-street, Poplar. Apollo Music Hall, Hare-street, Bethnal-green. Mission Hall, Bishopsgate. Preaching Room, Selater-street.

Large Shop, Hackney-road. Gospel Hall, Three Colts-lane, Cambridge-road. Owen and Co.'s Chemical Works, Mill-wall. Mission Hall, Marsh Gate-lane, Stratford.

ACCOMMODATION FOR 7,800 PERSONS

Is provided Free in these places.

140 SERVICES OUT DOORS AND IN ARE HELD WEEKLY, At which the Gospel is preached on an average to OVER 14,000 PEOPLE.

WORKERS.

Twenty persons are wholly employed in the Mission, assisted by a large band of unpaid helpers.

REFEREES.

Samuel Morley, Esq., Wood-street, E.C., and Stamford-hill, N.E. Captain Fishbourne, R.N., C.B., 6, Delamere-terrace, Harrow-road, W. George Peares, Esq., Stook Exchange, and 4, Westbourne-park-road, W. Rev. J. H. Wilson, Secretary of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, 18, South-street, Finsbury-square. Rev. W. Tyler, Minister of New Town Chapel, Mile-end. Messrs. Morgan and Chase, 38, Ludgate-hill. Mr. George Gilbert, Secretary of Evangelisation Society, 11, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Mr. Gavin Kirkham, Secretary of Open Air Mission, 11, Buckingham-street, Strand.

COMMITTEE.

Nathaniel James Powell, Cheapside, 101, Whitechapel, and Devonshire House, Hackney, N.E. John McCall, 137, Houndsditch, and Walthamstow, N.E. Charles Owen, Millwall, and Blackheath, S. George Gowland, Ratcliffe-cross, E., and Tunstall Lodge, Clapton, N.E. John Alfred Merrington, Hamlet-road, Upper Norwood, S. C. T. Mitchell, Ebenezer-terrace, London Hospital, E. John Eason, 43, Greenwood-road, Dalston, N.E. Edward Ives, 18, Princess-street, Cavendish-square, W. George Hamilton, 72, Whitechapel, E. Jabez Shelton, 43, Whitechapel, E. John Lee Dale, 84, Mile-end-road, and 25, Stepney-green.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Dimdale, Fowler, and Barnard.

NATHANIEL JAMES POWELL, } Treasurers.
JOHN MCCALL,
CHARLES OWEN, Hon. Sec.

SUPPORT.

This Mission is entirely dependent on the Voluntary Offerings of the Lord's People. Over £40 are required weekly. Contributions will be gratefully received by the Treasurers, by the Hon. Secretary, by the Editor of the *Review*, 38, Ludgate-hill; or by Mr. Booth, 1, Cambridge Lodge-villas, Triangle, Hackney, N.E. Small sums may be forwarded in postage-stamps.

HELP IS MUCH NEEDED.

GOVERNESS or COMPANION.—A Young LADY in her twenty-first year desires a RE-ENGAGEMENT, is a member of a Christian Church. Acquirements, English, Music, and singing. Satisfactory references. Salary, £20.

Alpha, Post-office, Harlow, Essex.

TO BRITISH SCHOOL MANAGERS.—A TRAINED TEACHER desires a RE-ENGAGEMENT in a British School, Girls' or Mixed. Country preferred. A Member of a Christian Church.

Address, Beta, Mr. Jacob, Church-street, Hackney, London, N.E.

SCHOLASTIC.—Mr. J. S. BARKER, B.A., would be happy to RECEIVE, after Easter, a few GENTLEMEN who may desire to be prepared for College or public examination. Referees, Rev. R. Bagnall, Scarborough. "Howard Villa," Scarborough.

CLASSICAL and COMMERCIAL ACADEMY.

COLLEGE HOUSE, BRAINTREE, Conducted by the Rev. W. MILNE, M.A., Late Inspector of Schools for the British and Foreign School Society, Borough-road, London.

Reference is kindly permitted to the following gentlemen: —E. D. J. Wilks, Esq., Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society, London; the Rev. J. Spence, M.A., D.D., London; the Rev. W. Leask, D.D., London; the Rev. C. Dukes, M.A., London; and the Parents of former Pupils.

A Prospectus, with terms, will be forwarded on application.

MISS WHITMORE RECEIVES YOUNG

LADIES to BOARD and EDUCATE, and offers the comforts of a Christian home at the seaside, with the advantages of a liberal education. There are vacancies for Boarders. A Foreign Governess resides in the house. References forwarded on application. The SECOND TERM will commence on WEDNESDAY, March 25th, 1888.

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STONEGATE SCHOOL, near

LEICESTER.—Mr. FRANKLIN receives Pupils at his long-established School. His boys have the advantage of homelike arrangements and care. The teaching is quite of the first class. Several Pupils each year pass the University local examinations. Reference may be made to the Hon. Justice Mellor, and to numbers of other gentlemen whose sons have been educated by Mr. Franklin. Terms, Fifty and Sixty Guineas, according to age on entering.

SHORTHAND.—PITMAN'S PHONO-

GRAPHY.—Phonography is taught in Class, at 7s. 6d.; or Private Instruction given, personally or by post, for £1 1s. the Perfect Course of Lessons.

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A YOUNG LADY and MAHOMET'S

COFFIN FLOATING in the AIR. Spiritual Manifestations &c. Home, daily at 3 and 8. Astronomy splendidly illustrated: the Solar System, the Starry Heavens, Spectrum Analysis, considered in Professor Pepper's lectures on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at a quarter to two and half-past seven. Lectures by Thomas Tobin, Esq., on the Progress of Architecture in England. Explorations in Abyssinia, by Thomas Baines, Esq. The marvellous Automaton Chess Player plays daily at four and half-past seven. The Chassepot and other Rifles, by J. L. King, Esq.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

CONGREGATIONAL PASTORS' INSURANCE AND SOCIETY.

The FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held at 7, BLOMFIELD-STREET, FINSBURY, on THURSDAY, April 2nd.

The Chair will be taken by the Treasurer, JOHN CHURCHILL, Esq., at One o'clock.

CHARLES FOX VARDY, Hon. Secretary.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 43, MOORGATE-STREET, E.C.

FOUNDED ANNO DOMINI, 1843.

Chairman, WILLIAM MCARTHUR, Esq., Sheriff of London and Middlesex.

The following figures show the position of the "STAR," from which it will be seen that it is one of the most secure and valuable Offices in which to make family provision.

Total Policies issued	17,500
Annual Income	£160,000 0 0
Total Claims Paid	560,000 0 0
Bonuses Distributed	239,804 11 4
Reserve or Assurance Fund	700,000 0 0

Applications on the business of the Office to be made to JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

13, ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Financial results of the Society's operations.

The ANNUAL INCOME, steadily increasing, exceeds £218,000. The ASSURANCE FUND, safely invested, is over £1,507,000. The BONUS added to POLICIES at the last Division was £272,682. The TOTAL CLAIMS by DEATH paid amount to £2,369,876.

The following are among the distinctive features of the Society:

CREDIT SYSTEM.—On any Policy for the whole of Life, where the age does not exceed 60, one half of the Annual Premiums during the first five years may remain on credit, and may either continue as a debt on the Policy, or be paid off at any time.

LOW RATES OF PREMIUM FOR YOUNG LIVES, with early participation in Profits.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES may be effected, without Profit, by which the Sum Assured becomes payable on the attainment of a specified age, or at death, whichever event shall first happen.

INVALID LIVES may be assured at rates proportioned to the increased risk.

PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.—Claims paid thirty days after proof of death.

The Reversionary Bonus at the Quinquennial Division in 1867, averaged 45 per Cent., and the CASH BONUS 26 per Cent., on the Premiums paid in the 5 years.

THE NEXT DIVISION OF PROFITS will take place in January, 1872, and persons who effect NEW POLICIES before the end of JUNE next will be entitled at that Division to one year's additional share of Profits over later Entrants.

Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposal can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or of

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary, 13, St. James's-square, London, S.W.

THE FOREIGN and COLONIAL GOVERNMENT TRUST.

In Certificates of £100 each bearing 6 per cent Interest. To be issued at £85.

The object of this Trust is to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalist in diminishing the risk of investing in Foreign and Colonial Government Stocks, by spreading the investment over a number of different Stocks, and reserving a portion of the extra interest as a Sinking Fund to pay off the original capital.

A capitalist who at any time within the last twenty or thirty years had invested, say £1,000,000 in ten or twelve such Stocks, selected with ordinary prudence, would, on the above plan, not only have received a high rate of interest, but by this time have received back his original capital by the action of the drawings and Sinking Fund, and held the greater part of his Stocks for nothing.

Some parties, believing it would be a convenience to the public if such a mode of investment were made generally accessible, have made arrangements by which well-selected Government Stocks, to the value of £1,000,000 sterling, will be placed in the names of the following trustees, viz.:-

The Right Honourable Lord Westbury,
The Lord Eustace Cecil, M.P.,
G. M. W. Sandford, Esq., M.P.,
George Wodehouse Currie, Esq., and
Philip Rose, Esq.

The following Stocks, being all dividend-paying Stocks of Foreign or Colonial Governments, currently dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, have been selected for the investment, viz.:- Austrian, Australian, Argentine, Canadian, Brazilian, Chilean, Danubian, Egyptian, Italian, Nova Scotian, Peruvian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and United States Ten-Forties payable in gold; not more than £100,000 being invested in the Stock of any one Government.

These Stocks will be made over to the Trust at the prices quoted in yesterday's official list (18th March), as certified by two eminent brokers, plus £3 10s. for each £100 of Stock, for which all expenses of the purchase and issue, including stamps, &c., have been undertaken.

The prices and specific amounts of each Stock are specified in the Schedule to the Contract and Trust Deed.

The average rate of interest of the investment in the above Stocks is 8 per cent., and a large number of them, purchased considerably below par, will be repayable by drawings at par, within the period of the Trust.

As at this investment of £1,000,000 will be issued 11,765 Certificates of £100 each, with half-yearly coupons bearing 6 per cent. interest payable at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 1st March and 1st September, the first Coupon falling due on 1st September next.

The price of issue will be £85 per cent., thus yielding an annual interest of 7 per cent., without reckoning the advantage of being repaid at par, and without including the value of the Reversion of the Stocks purchased.

The excess of Interest, after paying the 7 per cent. Interest to the subscribers, and the amount received from drawings will, after payment of expenses, be applied as a Sinking Fund in repaying the Certificates at par by annual drawings, which are to be made in the presence of a Notary Public, in the month of February in each year.

According to a table prepared by Mr. Jellicoe, late President of the Society of Actuaries, the whole of the 11,765 Certificates will in all probability be thus paid off in twenty-four years, and there will remain Stocks to the amount of £909,100, nominal capital, for distribution as a reversion; accordingly the Trust will be wound up as soon as all the Certificates have been drawn, or at the end of twenty-four years, whichever shall first happen; the remaining Stocks being then sold, and the remaining Certificates, if any, paid off.

In addition to the Coupons for the half-yearly interest, a Coupon, representing the share according to the Certificate holder in the above reversion, will be attached to each Certificate. This Coupon of Reversion will be retained by the holder when his Certificate is drawn.

The arrangements thus made will secure the following advantages to the subscribers:-

1. Interest at 7 per cent. on the amount subscribed.
2. A bonus of 15 per cent., by the repayment of capital at par within twenty-four years.
3. A reversion, calculated by Mr. Jellicoe at upwards of £900,000 nominal capital, eventually divisible among the subscribers.

If by the fault or delay of any Foreign Government the dividends and drawings received in any year should be insufficient to pay the full amount of interest on the Certificates, the deficiency will form a first charge upon the subsequent receipts, subject only to the annual allowance for expenses.

The object being to give the fullest confidence in the security of the Trust Fund, the Stocks will remain, under the control of the Trustees, at the Bank of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., till the termination of the Trust, and the Trustees will be empowered to draw dividends, receive capital repaid, &c., and apply the amount received in interest and sinking fund according to the Trust Deed.

A power of sale, under special circumstances, will be vested in the Trustees and a Committee of Certificate holders to be chosen at General Meetings, held annually for the purpose, and for receiving a Report and Accounts from the Trustees. Auditors at the same time will be appointed to make periodical inspections of the Securities of the Trust, and any vacancies in the Trust will be filled up.

The ordinary expenses of management of the Trust are limited to a sum not exceeding £2,500 per annum. No other expenses can be undertaken without the assent of the Certificate-holders' Committee.

Within two months after the closing of the subscription, a General Meeting of the Certificate-holders will be convened, for the purpose of appointing a Committee, in terms of the Trust Deed.

Application must be made on the annexed form, accompanied by a deposit of £10 per cent.

In cases where no allotment is made, the deposits will be returned without deduction, and where the Certificates allotted are less than the number applied for, the surplus deposits will be credited towards the allotment.

Payments to be made as follows:-

On application	£10
On allotment	5
15th April	25
15th May	25
15th June	20
	£85

Subscribers may anticipate their payments on the days when any of the instalments fall due, being allowed a discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The Contract provides for the delivery of the Stocks on the 30th March, from which date the account will bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum until the purchase is completed.

Provisional certificates will be issued on allotment, and the final certificates with interest coupons attached, and also the coupons of reversion, will be issued immediately after payment of the final instalment.

As the principle of the measure does not depend on the amount subscribed, if a substantial part only of the £1,000,000 should be allotted, the arrangement will be carried out with a *pro rata* reduction of the amount of each Stock made over to the Trust.

As the payments are received from the subscribers by the Bankers, they will be exchanged for Stocks, to be handed over to the Trustees.

The Contract and Trust Deed, together with forms of the Certificates, and the Actuary's Tables, may be seen at the Offices of Messrs. Baxter, Rose, Norton, and Co., Solicitors, 6, Victoria-street, Westminster Abbey.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained of Messrs. Baxter, Rose, Norton, and Co., 6, Victoria-

street, Westminster Abbey; and at Messrs. Glyn and Co., Bankers, Lombard-street, where all Subscriptions must be paid.
London, 19th March, 1868.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT TRUST.

To the Trustees of the Fund (care of Messrs. Baxter, Rose, Norton, and Co., 6, Victoria-street, Westminster, London).

Having paid to Messrs. Glyn and Co., to the account of the Foreign and Colonial Government Trust, the sum of £ as a Deposit on Certificates of £100 each in the said Trust, I request you to allot to me that number of Certificates, and I engage to pay the further instalments upon that or any lesser number that you may allot to me, as the same shall become due, in default of which my previous payments shall be liable to forfeiture.

Name _____
Address _____
Description _____
Signature _____

Addition to be filled up if the Applicant wishes to pay in full.
I desire to pay up my Subscription in full, receiving Discount thereon at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.
Signature _____

PROTESTANT UNION, for the BENEFIT of the WIDOWS and CHILDREN of PROTESTANT MINISTERS of all DENOMINATIONS.

DIRECTORS.

DR. ANOUS, DR. HALLEY, JOHN STOUTON, ROBERT ASHTON, JOHN KENNEDY, A.M.

This Society affords the most advantageous medium, through which ministers, by the payment of an annual premium, can secure a proportionate annuity for their Widows, or an equivalent advantage for their Children.

At the recent valuation the premiums of all members, admitted prior to January 1st, 1866, were reduced 20 per cent.

Communications may be addressed to the Secretary, *pro tem*, the Rev. CHARLES FOX VARDY, at the Office, 7, Blomfield-street, Finsbury, E.C., where attendance is given every Tuesday and Friday, from eleven till one o'clock.

NATIONAL UNION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, No. 355, Strand, London.

CHAIRMAN—EDWIN LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S.

ADVANTAGES TO INSURERS.

1. POLICIES BECOME PAYABLE DURING LIFETIME.
2. INDISPENSABILITY after three years.
3. FACILITIES for the Continuance and Non-forfeiture of Policies.

HENRY SUTTON, F.R.S., Secretary.

N.B.—DISTRICT AND LOCAL AGENTS WANTED.

SIX POUNDS PER WEEK WHILE LIVED UP BY INJURY, and £1,000 in case of Death caused by Accident of any kind, may be secured by an annual payment of from £3 to £6 5s. to the RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Railway accidents alone may also be provided against by insurance tickets for single or double journeys. For particulars apply to the Clerks at the Railway stations, to the local agents, or at the offices, 64, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.
W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

LADIES AND THE PUBLIC

Are invited to inspect

SPENCE'S NEW, USEFUL, and CHEAP SILKS, MANTLES, SHAWLS, FANCY DRESSES, DRAPERY, &c.

The following are confidently recommended for cheapness and wear, viz.:-

SILKS.—New Spring Colours in Striped Silks, from £1 15s. 6d. the Dress. Plain Glaces, in the new colours, from £3 2s. the Dress. Black Figured Glaces, £1 15s. 6d. the Dress. Black Satins, from £2 2s. the Dress. The best makes in Black Glaces, Gros Grains, Drap-de-France (wear guaranteed). Patterns post free.

MANTLES.—The "New Costumes" in Velveteen. Blue Serge, Waterproof Tweeds, and Black Silks. New Styles in Velveteen Jackets for Spring, from 12s. 9d. Specialties in Waterproofs (including the New Registered Hood), 14s. 9d., 16s. 9d., 18s. 9d., and 21s. Velveteen Jackets, from 42s., beautifully trimmed.

FANCY DRESSES in all the Latest Novelties for Spring.—Luxemburg Cord, in all the New Spring Colours, full Dress, 10s. 9d., 12s. 9d., and 14s. 9d. French Popline (all Wool), full Dress, 12s. 9d., in all Colours. Coraline Cloth, Striped and Ubenie, 12 yards for 8s. 11d., 10s. 9d., 12s. 9d., and 14s. 9d.

DRAPERY.—Fine French Cambrics, 8½d. and 10½d. per yard (original price 14½d.). Prints, 6½d. and 7½d. per yard. Fine Long Cloth, 8s. 11d. per dozen.
Ribbons, Gloves, Hosiery, Lace, Trimmings, Fancy, &c.
Family and Complimentary Mourning.

JAMES SPENCE AND CO.,

76, 77, and 78, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

Illuminated Catalogue, with Sketch of St. Paul's and its Churchyard, by GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA, post free.

VELVETEEN for DRESSES, Mantles, and

Jackets, beautifully soft and silk-like, sacrificed at 2s. 6d. the yard, usually sold at 4s. 6d. Patterns sent.—HARVEY and CO., LAMBETH HOUSE, Westminster-bridge, S.

RICH SILKS, MOIRES, &c., in DRESSES

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COOPER COOPER and CO., 50, King William-street, London-bridge, and 63, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C., have determined to furnish a complete and satisfactory answer to the universal question, "Where can we get really good tea?" The recent reductions in the duty, coupled with an enormous increase in the imports, have made tea so cheap that the choicest black tea the world produces can be sold to the public at a price which is so low as to render the sale of inferior qualities unnecessary. When the best black tea can be bought at three shillings a pound, it does seem unwise to buy poor, watery, tasteless tea at a few pence a pound less money. Cooper, Cooper, and Co. have therefore resolved to avoid all second or third class tea, and to confine their business to high-class tea alone. It is well known that all high-class teas are those which are gathered in early spring, when the leaves are bursting with succulence: these are first-crop teas, full flavoured rich, and juicy; whereas low price teas are gathered, or rather raked, from under the trees in autumn, when the leaves are withered, dry, and sapless. The difference between first crop teas and inferior descriptions is something marvellous when tasted side by side—the one brisk, pungent, and juicy; the other stale, flat, and insipid. There is a great difference even in first-crop tea, some chops possessing much more strength and a finer flavour than others. There are also several varieties, the most esteemed being Souchong, Monong, and Kyahow Congou. These three classes, when really fine, are beyond compare the best of all teas; and of these three Kyahow stands pre-eminent as a prince among teas. Now, it must not for one moment be assumed that the teas ordinarily sold bearing those titles are these teas, pure and simple in their integrity. A small portion of some of them is sometimes used in the manufacture of that incongruous mixture which is so frequently recommended by the unskilled and inexperienced dealer; but we venture to assert that pure unmixed tea can with difficulty be obtained even by those to whom price is no object. In fact, indiscriminate mixing of tea destroys those fine and subtle qualities which distinguish one growth from another, and it would not be more unwise to spoil vintages of choice wines by blending them together haphazard, and thus bringing the combination down to a dead level of mediocrity, than it is to ruin all distinctness of character by a heterogeneous confusion of qualities in tea; but as Cooper, Cooper, and Co. sell no other article of any description, they are enabled to keep in stock every variety that is at all esteemed by connoisseurs, and to sell them in their integrity as imported from China.

Cooper, Cooper, and Co. claim for their system of business another feature, viz., that there can be no mistake in the price or quality of any tea bearing their name on the wrapper or parcel, as they pledge themselves to sell first-crop tea only at their warehouses.

There are eight classes of superior black tea, each of these Cooper, Cooper, and Co. will sell pure and unmixed at one uniform price of three shillings a pound, and there is no better black tea. There are five classes of superior green tea; each of these Cooper, Cooper, and Co. will sell pure and unmixed at one uniform price of four shillings a pound, and there is no better green tea.

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1. The finest Lapsang Souchong, 3s. a lb. This tea is exquisitely delicate in flavour, silky on the palate, and one of the finest teas ever imported into England.
2. The finest Monong Congou, 3s. a lb. This is ripe, lemon-melon flavoured tea, abounding in strength and quality.
3. The finest Kyahow Congou (the prince of teas), 3s. a lb. This is brisk, rich, true Pekoe Souchong-flavoured tea, perfect in strength, perfect in quality, beautifully manipulated, full of flower; a tea to sip, to dwell upon, to turn over on the palate as an alderman does his turtle; suitable for the drawing-room, the boudoir, the cottage, the palace, the toiling millions as well as the upper ten thousand; the former cannot drink a more economical tea, the latter, with all their wealth, cannot buy better tea.
4. The finest Assam Congou, 3s. a lb. This is very strong tea, of Indian growth, draws a deep red liquor, is very pungent, a little coarse, but drinks full in the mouth. It is quite a distinct class of tea, rather peculiar, and not appreciated by all; in fact, to like it requires an acquired taste.
5. The finest Oolong, 3s. a pound. This is high burnt, very pungent tea, and is an especial favourite with the tea-drinking public in America, among whom it is more esteemed than in England; in fact, the Americans drink hardly any other tea. It draws a pale liquor, and resembles green tea in many respects.
6. The finest Canton scented Pekoe, 3s. a lb. This is a fine, wiry leaf, strongly scented tea, of peculiar piquancy and sharpness of flavour, and is frequently used to fetch up the flavour of second-class teas. It is more frequently used as a curiosity, and as an experiment than by the tea-drinking public; it is, in fact, a fancy tea.
7. The finest Foo Chow scented Pekoe, 3s. a lb. This is a small, closely twisted leaf, scented with jessamine flower. When infused, it exhales a rich and fragrant perfume, which is perhaps less grateful to the palate than to the other senses.
8. The finest scented Caper, 3s. a lb. This is a small, shotty leaf, very compact and heavy, drinks very brisk and pungent. It is rather a plebeian tea, but is occasionally tried by diligent seekers after excellence, who at last settle down to the "Princely Kyahow."

No other price for black tea.

LIST OF FINE GREEN TEAS.

9. The finest Moyune Hyson, 4s. a lb. This tea is delicately fine. Its flavour resembles that of the cowslip, and the colour of the infusion is marvellously like cowslip wine. It possesses the finest flavour of a green tea. It is principally consumed in Russia.
10. The finest Young Hyson, 4s. a lb. This is a small, compact leaf, and the really fine (such as Cooper Cooper and Co. sell) is exceedingly strong, and of a very fine almond flavour.
11. The finest Moyune Gunpowder, 4s. a lb. This tea is much esteemed in England. It is brisk, high-burnt flavour, shotty in leaf, and heavy; it is not so fine or so pure in flavour as Hyson, but its great strength renders it a favourite with many.
12. The finest Ping Suay Gunpowder, 4s. a lb. This is very small in the leaf, very handsome and compact, resembles pin heads, but is not so pungent in liquor as Moyune Gunpowder.
13. The finest Imperial, 4s. a lb. This is a large knotty leaf tea, very strong, but not much in flavour; but when really fine is sought after by the curious.

No other price for green tea.

There are other classes of tea, but these are the choicest and best. Cooper, Cooper, and Co. recommend consumers to try the first four on the list—Souchong, Monong, Kyahow, and Assam. By having a small parcel of each of these they will be enabled to judge for themselves and select the flavour suitable to their taste, and then by sending for the one approved of by number, they may always rely upon having exactly the same character of tea.

Cooper, Cooper, and Co. sell any quantity, from a quarter of a pound upwards. They have original packages of all these teas—the black in chests of about ninety pounds; in half-chests, about forty pounds; and catty boxes, holding about twenty pounds each. These are lined with lead, and will keep the tea good and fresh for a very long period.

Cooper, Cooper, and Co.'s prices are for net cash only, without discount.

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As Cooper, Cooper, and Co.'s prices are net at their warehouses, this system of charging for delivery cannot fail to approve itself to the public. If teas in small parcels can be delivered free at any distance there must be a proportionate profit charged for it, and this is charged on all the tea sold. Cooper, Cooper, and Co. make one uniform charge for delivery, as the expense to them is the same in delivering a small parcel of tea as a large one.

Cooper, Cooper, and Co. forward their teas to all parts of the world on receipt of Post-office orders or bankers' drafts for the amount, including three pence for delivery at the railway station; but Cooper, Cooper, and Co. do not pay railway carriage. As their prices are fully nine pence a pound under the prices usually charged, for teas of a lower character, the item of railway carriage cannot be of importance to those living in the country.

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α	1
β	3
γ	3
δ	80
ε	10
κ	20
ο	70
α	1
μ	40
ε	5
ρ	100
ι	10
κ	20
α	1
ν	50
η	8
ε	5
κ	20
κ	20
λ	30
η	8
σ	200
ι	10
α	1
					666

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